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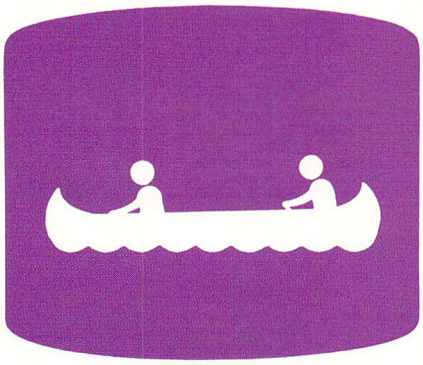

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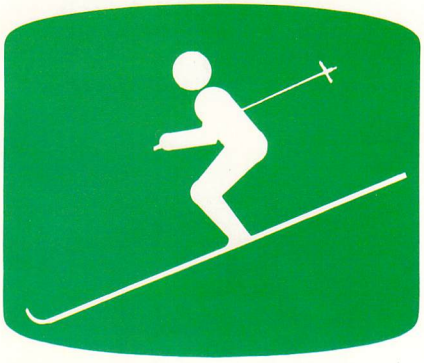

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Going Someplace? Go Direct.

TURN THIS PAGE TO EXPLORE AN EXCITING NEW DATABASE FROM THE OAG ELECTRONIC EDITION TRAVEL SERVICE.

On CompuServe, enter GO OAG.

EasyPlex Breaks the Sound Barrier

Extended Network Terminates Telephone Tag

by Randy Rendfeld

CompuServe subscribers are finding quicker, more efficient ways of conducting business. They're ending the age-old game of telephone tag, and finding that anyone can be reached anywhere, anytime through EasyPlex, EasyPlex Fax, EasyPlex Telex and MCI Mail.

Evaluate Your Broker with I/B/E/S

by Michael Houdeshell

If you're a small investor, chances are you feel a bit insecure about making investment decisions based solely on your broker's recommendations—and with good reason. No matter what happens, you take the risk. Thus, you may want to gain more control over your investments.

For those who'd prefer firsthand data—or simply more of it to supplement their broker's advice—the Institutional Brokers Estimate System (GO IBES) is the place to look for comprehensive information. The database draws on the expertise of more than 2,500 professional securities analysts at 130 brokerage and research firms to prepare weekly consensus earnings forecasts for more than 3,400 corporations.

Because these individual analysts' opinions take into account the viewpoints of colleagues, their estimates tend to group together in the familiar "bell curve" distribution. Knowing something about the curve and where your broker's estimate falls on it—along with his or her history for accurately anticipating the market—will help you more confidently evaluate your broker's advice.

For example, suppose your broker says that a particular stock is going to earn $5 per share this year, and recommends that you buy a number of shares. Before acting on his or her advice, you access I/B/E/S's Mean Estimate Report and find that the consensus estimate is $4.50 a share. Now, if the end of the fiscal year is six months off, you can assume that analysts are going to gradually refine their estimates as more data come in, and the consensus estimate will reflect actual earnings with increasing precision.

If the actual EPS (earnings per share) turns out to be higher than most analysts now predict—closer to what your broker projects—you will make money. By acting now and adding the stock to your portfolio before increased earnings expectations lead to price appreciation, you'll get an edge over other investors.

Conversely, if I/B/E/S shows that your broker's estimate is lower than the consensus and you think he's right, it wouldn't do to buy. As the consensus converges on the lower actual earnings figure, price per share will drop. Knowledge of your broker's track record helps. Not every rebel is right. If a broker has a history of making dissenting estimates that don't often pan out, then the likelihood of turning a profit on the investment is decreased.

Using the I/B/E/S Expanded Earnings Report, you can obtain further statistical information on the distribution of estimates. This information can help you gauge the degree to which your broker deviates from the consensus. The Expanded Report also enables you to track trends directly by providing the percentage change in the mean estimate over time—a value that can serve as a quantitative index of estimate trends. If they are rising, you can be reasonably certain the more optimistic—and accurate—earnings predictions will be incorporated into the market price.

The principle of *caveat emptor* applies as much to investments as to tangible goods, if not more so. The smart investor is an informed investor—one who takes control over his or her decisions by using a number of sources.

Ticker Retrieval Gets Financial Overviews

by Michael Houdeshell

Sometimes an unassuming title belies true power. Such is the case with Ticker Retrieval (GO TICKER), CompuServe's versatile single-company research service. By tapping into various online company information sources, Ticker Retrieval affords not one but several viewing angles on a corporation's financial history, ownership, earnings outlook, market performance and other items essential to the investor who demands a thorough look around before leaping to financial commitment.

Artists Only

So, you might well ask, what's with—or in—the name? "Ticker" refers to the company's ticker symbol, the solitary bit of information the user must provide. The program then fetches information from those databases containing information on the company, then assembles it into a menu. That's the "retrieval" part. (And if you don't know a particular company's ticker symbol, Ticker offers an equities-only version of CompuServe's *NAME issue ID lookup facility, which matches a ticker to a company name you supply.)

The Ticker Retrieval menu expedites your company research by circumventing the GO commands and menu routes you would otherwise have to use to gather such scattered information. The scope of this menu may vary, depending on how extensively the company's records are distributed in the various databases (including Disclosure II, I/B/E/S, Value Line and S&P Online), and whether or not the company has issued bonds and options. In addition, current trading information is displayed, ticker-style, across the top of the menu upon initial access.

Menu items in general refer to information by type, not source. For instance, you could select Options 1, "Descriptive Company Info," or 11, "Earnings/Growth Forecasts." When you make your choice, Ticker takes you to a submenu of reports from data providers—where you can view reports, produce charts or select a database, depending on the particular service involved.

When you are finished, Ticker returns you to its main menu so you can consider things from another vantage. A recent enhancement lets you retrieve the current trading information for a quick price update by selecting Option 16, "Current Day Quote," from the Ticker menu. This capability to touch base and take off again is what Ticker is all about.

Other new features include instant access to TREND, the Historic Price/Volume Graphing program that generates on-screen, adjusted plots of your company's trading history for spans ranging from 15 days to 70 months; S&P Online reports, including corporate background information, outlook, a business line breakdown, earnings data and balance sheets are now available from the "Descriptive company info" submenu. You can view the entire complement of Disclosure II company reports by selecting Option 14, "Full Disclosure II Info," or view parts by selecting Option 9, "Financial Reports," Option 10, "Management Discussion," and Option 14, "Ownership."

Executive Option Open

All Subscribers Can Try It This Month

by Carole Houze Gerber

If you've always thought of the Executive Option as an exclusive club open only to members, think again. During the month of March, Executive doors have been thrown wide open so that anyone can take a close look at the financial services accessible through this option. (Value-added news services are not included.)

Financial services accessible through this month's Executive Option promotion include:

- Disclosure II (GO DISCLOSURE) provides comprehensive and in-depth text and financial reports on thousands of publicly held companies. Information is based on documents firms must file with the Securities and Exchange Commission.
- Company Screening (GO COSCREEN) enables you to search Disclosure II's database of more than 10,000 companies to identify those that meet your criteria.
- Ticker Retrieval (GO TICKER) helps you get data fast by searching financial products databases and bundling those containing data on the company you want under one menu for quick and easy access.
- Institutional Broker's Estimate System (GO I/B/E/S) contains consensus earnings estimates from Wall Street professionals for more than 3,400 publicly traded corporations.
- Return Analysis (GO RETURN) enables you to compare how the return on your portfolio compares with others or to the market.

If you choose to subscribe to the Executive Option after examining it through your trial access, you'll receive a variety of member perks, including discounts on retrieving quotes; a free gift at sign-up; a 50 percent increase in your Personal File Area online storage; six months' free storage of personal files; and a 10 percent discount on the purchase of most CompuServe products.

Normally, subscribers pay a one-time $10 sign-up fee for this option, which carries a minimum monthly usage fee of $10. (This fee is credited toward, not in addition to, your first $10 worth of charges for the month.) Executive Option services carry product surcharges, which remain in effect during the promotion.

To subscribe, type GO EXECUTIVE and follow the online prompts.

Disclosure II Database Streamlined for Speed

by Michael Houdeshell

As a tool for opening the boardroom door and exposing the inner workings of the corporate world to your scrutiny, the Disclosure II database is second to none. And now, with a menu overhaul and new report groupings, its battery of online reports make it easier than ever to uncover the facts.

Disclosure's streamlining includes the consolidation of several menu levels. Also, reports have been grouped in columns according to the types of information they contain. On the Disclosure II main menu, the left-hand column is devoted to company reports. These can tell you not only what kind of financial shape the company is in, but also who is running the show. Here you can retrieve a concise but telling company profile, financial statements, the most recent management discussion, or a list of officers and directors. Or you may choose to retrieve all of them at a special bundle discount.

If you want to know who is holding the corporate cards, turn to the right half of the menu for ownership information. Among the offerings are an ownership and subsidiary summary, a list of the 5 percent shareholders, and separate breakdowns of insider and institutional holdings. The price for obtaining the entire line of ownership reports—previously called the Complete Ownership Detail Report—has dropped from $34 to $25.

That $25 figure represents another effort to make Disclosure more researcher-friendly. Now individual reports cost a flat $5 or $10 each. Prices are listed next to the report titles in the menu. Standardized prices are not only easier to remember, they can also quickly reveal how much you might save by taking the package deals —i.e., $10 off the individual report prices for both the comprehensive company reports and ownership information bundles. In all instances but one, submenus have been eliminated.

The sole exception, Financial Statements, gives you carte blanche. For $10 you can take your pick of annual and quarterly income statements, the balance sheet, ratio reports, a five-year financial summary, weekly price-to-earnings figures and business segment data. If in doubt, take them all for the $10 access price.

And while it is probably true that there is no free lunch, you can get some appetizers at no cost. The company name and address are now available surcharge-free, and you can sample all the Disclosure reports surcharge-free to decide which ones fit your needs by using the ticker symbol of H&R Block (HRB), CompuServe's parent company. The benefits of the thorough reorganization of the company reports should be noticeable almost immediately.

The new packaging follows a more intuitive scheme. Take, for instance, the new Company Profile selection, the first option on the menu. With one command, you can call up the company's name and address, its Securities and Exchange Commission filings, a succinct description of its line of business, and a calendar of exhibits and corporate events. And you get it all for $5—less than half of what it costs to assemble these items under the old system. The sources of Disclosure's reliable data on more than 10,000 publicly held corporations remain the same: Company records are obtained from SEC filing documents and corporate reports. Financial figures and subsidiary names are culled from 10K and 10Q reports, while lists of company officers and directors come directly from proxy statements.

The changes in Disclosure II also are reflected in the fundamental (qualitative) financial data reports available from Ticker Retrieval (GO TICKER), CompuServe's powerful single-company investigative resource that synthesizes information drawn from several online databases. The Full Disclosure II menu choice is available, and you can now look at the company's management discussion and detailed ownership information separately. Financial statements have been consolidated under one title here, too.

Michael Houdeshell is a free-lance writer based in Columbus, Ohio.

After the file type has been specified, the system prompts you to begin the transmission. Your communications program's manual should outline its command sequence for uploading. Usually, the terminal software prompts for the name of the file on your disk that you want to upload. After that, your computer and CompuServe begin their clever digital comparison of checksums, which we discussed last month, continuing until the entire file has been transmitted.

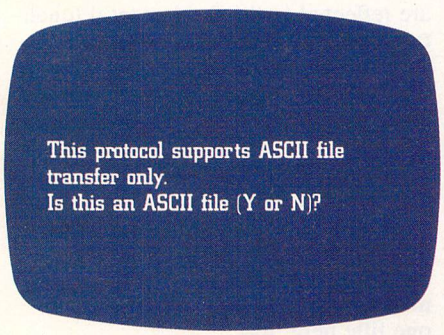
In a forum library, after the upload is completed, you will be prompted to enter keywords and a file description.

As in downloading, if you were to upload a second file, the system would not prompt again for a file-transfer protocol, but rather it would assume you were using the same protocol you used for the first upload.

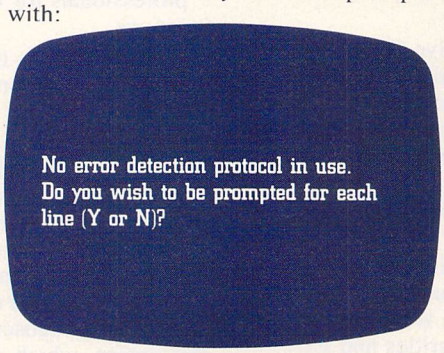
If you need to stop an upload (or a download) before it is finished, press [CONTROL-C] or the Escape key several times. Usually, CompuServe displays a message reporting the transfer is aborted and allows you to return to a menu.

Like downloading, uploading is possible in the Personal File Area and the EasyPlex electronic mail service.

Finally, last month we talked about another option on the Protocol menu, DC4/DC2 CAPTURE, and how it differs from the others. We pointed out that DC4/DC2 is *not* an error-checking protocol, meaning it does not compare checksums the way B and Quick B Protocol, XMODEM and Kermit do. Instead, DC4/DC2, sometimes called an ASCII transfer, is simply an ASCII display of the file; if phone line static occurs during the transfer, it will cause garble in the file as it is received. For this reason, it should be used sparingly for uploading material. When you select the DC4/DC2 options from the protocol menu for uploading, the system displays:



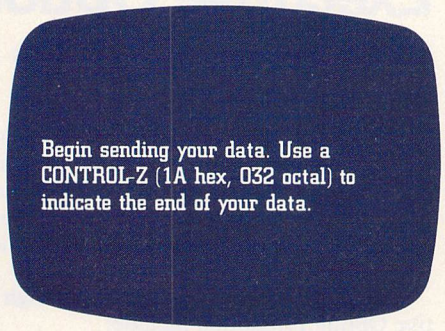
The system is reminding you that an error-checking protocol, rather than DC4/DC2, should be used for uploading binary files. If you answer this prompt with Y for yes, meaning your file is indeed ASCII, the system then prompts with:



If you answer this question with Y, the system asks you to type the prompt character to use. (For instance, if you enter a question mark, the system will prompt with a ? at the beginning of each new line.)

If you answer N, the system will not prompt you at the beginning of each new line.

After that, the system reports:



Now you may tell your software to begin its ASCII transmission. (With the DC4/DC2 option, you can type in your file directly from your keyboard.) When you are finished, inform CompuServe by pressing [CONTROL-Z].

Keep in mind that DC4/DC2, while fine for transmitting textfiles, cannot be used for binary files such as programs.

Charles Bowen and David Peyton co-authored How to Get the Most Out of CompuServe. *Bowen's CompuServe User ID number is 70007,411. Peyton's is 76703,244.*

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How to Get the Most Out of CompuServe

Learn Uploading Basics

by Charles Bowen and David Peyton

Last month, we tackled half of the file-transfer problem, the basics of *downloading*. We talked about how to retrieve data from CompuServe and have it stored automatically on a disk in your computer using an "error-checking protocol." Now we will cover the issue's flip-side, *uploading*.

Uploading means the transmission of material (text or a program) from your computer to CompuServe for storage. It works in the same basic way as downloading, except that, because you are sending rather than receiving the data, you have to supply the system with a little more information.

Before we get information on uploads, let's summarize our previous discussion on downloading. Last month we noted that:

- You should consult your communications program's manual to learn its own command sequences for file transfer and to determine what file transfer protocol or protocols it supports. (A protocol is a set of rules that allows computers to send and receive data without the errors caused by phone line static.)
- Because of technical differences among various transfer protocols, it is essential that both the sending and receiving computers use the same protocol during a transfer.
- CompuServe offers several transfer protocols, including B Protocol and Quick B Protocol, developed specifically for CompuServe (and included in a number of communications programs such as Professional Connection, VIDTEX and others); XMODEM (also called MODEM7), a well-known public-domain protocol developed in the late 1970s by Ward Christensen of Chicago; and Kermit, a newer protocol developed at Columbia University.

Uploading can be used in a number of CompuServe areas, but the procedure is approximately the same in each. To see how it works, suppose you have an original program or article you want to contribute to the library of a favorite forum. Accessing the library (with the LIB command) causes the system to produce this menu:

```
Forum Library  0

HELP Files

1 BROWSE thru files
2 DIRECTORY of files
3 UPLOAD a new file
4 DOWNLOAD a file
5 LIBRARIES

Enter choice !
```

The third option allows you to upload. Type 3 at the prompt and then provide a file name.

Various parts of CompuServe, including forum libraries and the Personal File Area, use names to identify files. A file name can be one to six characters with an optional extension (a period and up to three characters), as in MYFILE.TXT. You can use alphabetic or numeric characters and hyphens in the name, but the first character must be alphabetic. When the system prompts for a file name, it means the name under which the data will be stored on CompuServe; what you enter does *not* have to be the same name that exists on your disk. You might have a file called PROPOSAL.DAT on your disk and upload it to CompuServe to be saved there as MYFILE.TXT.

Once the file name has been specified, the system requests the transfer protocol you want to use and displays its menu of available protocols—B Protocol, XMODEM, Kermit, etc.—just as in downloading:

```
Library Protocol                    Menu
Transfer protocols available:
1 XMODEM (MODEM7) protocol
2 CompuServe 'B' protocol
3 CompuServe 'A' protocol
4 DC4/DC2 CAPTURE protocol
5 Kermit protocol
6 CompuServe Quick 'B' protocol
0 Abort transfer request
Enter choice !
```

As noted last month, if you are using one of CompuServe's terminal programs, such as Professional Connection, the system may skip this menu and assume you will use B or Quick B Protocol. Otherwise, if this menu is displayed, you must indicate with a number which protocol you want the system to use in the coming transfer. Be sure to select a protocol that also is supported by your terminal program.

After the protocol is specified, the system requests the file type with a menu like this:

```
Transfer types available:

1 ASCII (7-bit)
2 Binary (8-bit)
3 Graphic:RLE
4 Graphic:NAPLPS
5 Graphic:GIF

Enter choice !
```

File type means the format in which the file should be saved on CompuServe. We shall defer to a later column a discussion of the last three options here (Graphic:RLE, Graphic:NAPLPS and Graphic:GIF). For now, note merely that these refer to graphics formats.

The other two options on the list require some translation:

- ASCII (American Standard Code for Information Interchange) usually means text, including letters, documents or source code of programs.
- Binary means computer programs, primarily, or files saved in a specific program's unique format, such as spreadsheet data.

Generally, you should specify the same file type as the file stored on your disk. If the file you are uploading is binary (a program, for instance), you should save it in binary format on CompuServe, if it is an ASCII text (an article or letter), it should be saved in ASCII on the receiving end.

A confusion about textfiles sometimes arises because many commercial word processors routinely store documents, not in ASCII but in a binary format to save space on your disk and to imbed commands for printers and so on. It is a mistake to upload one of these *compressed* binary files and save it as ASCII on CompuServe. Because it is not ASCII, it will not be readable by those who download it. Fortunately, your word processor usually has an option for saving files in plain-vanilla ASCII rather than its own compressed format. Check the users manual of your word processor and use that option to save textfiles in true ASCII before uploading them.

Gateway 2000

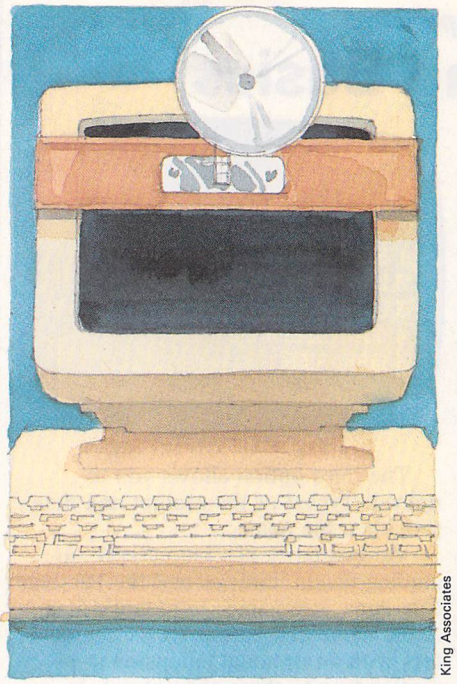
Gateways—those holes in the database fence that allow users to access other online services—are going to be critical to the development of a consumer mass market of videotex services, according to a one-year study of North American gateways by the Videotex Industry Association.

Called Gateway 2000, the study is the first public discussion of the characteristics of mass market gateways that focuses on the needs of the individual user. "This report represents a significant step toward making universal access for videotex a reality," says Hilary Thomas, chairman of the VIA and president of Minitel USA.

The videotex industry's goal is for 97 percent of the US population to have access to videotex with 50 percent occasionally using it by 2000. Effective and easy-to-use gateways are the key for fulfilling this consumer mass market vision. Other vital factors include protocol support, information transport, session management and gateway-to-gateway connectivity. But perhaps as significant as the report's findings is the fact that Gateway 2000 represents one of the first cooperative industry efforts to develop the marketplace.

If the information available via videotex is not top rate, consumer demand will decrease drastically. Says Thomas, "The availability of a broad range of useful, high-quality services will determine videotex usage."

For information or to purchase a copy of Gateway 2000 ($160), contact the Videotex Industry Association, 1901 N. Fort Myer Dr., Suite 200, Rosslyn, VA 22209; 703/522-0883.



King Associates

Empathetic Software Trains Future Doctors

Medical students at Dartmouth Medical College may learn bedside manners from an unusual source: a computer.

Second-year medical students at the Hanover, N.H., college are using a program called PlanAlyzer to conduct diagnostic exercises. In addition to individualized computer instruction that is easy to use, the students benefit from this empathetic program. For instance, should they choose an incorrect reticulocyte count in an anemia case presented by PlanAlyzer, the program encouragingly tells them, "You can't be faulted. Many physicians use the retic count as an early stage in the workup of anemia. But, as you remember, I prefer another approach."

The biggest problem with computer instruction is that it is so impersonal, according to Harold Lyon Jr., a member of the medical school team and an expert on learning processes. "Computer instruction removes what we know to be one of the most important factors in teaching—empathy," he says. "This program tries to structure instruction so the computer doesn't arrogantly say, 'No, wrong, go back and try again.' "

PlanAlyzer was funded with $750,000 in grants from the National Library of Medicine and Apple Computer and features the use of artificial intelligence and HyperCard for extensive and easy information retrieval during the exercises.

Medical students are traditionally given the diagnosis first and then told how it was reached. In real-life situations, the exact opposite is true. Analysis of a patient's symptoms lead to the diagnosis. PlanAlyzer may produce better doctors because it teaches them to make a diagnosis by analyzing symptoms presented in the computer exercises.

For information, contact Dartmouth College, Centurion Building, 3 Lebanon St., Hanover, NH 03755; 603/646-3661.

Extensive medical information ranging from searchable databases to interactive forums is available on CompuServe by typing FIND HEALTH.

—Cathryn Conroy

Bother-free CheckFree

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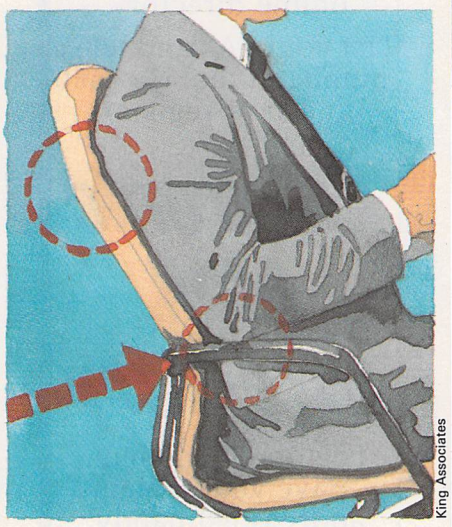
For information, contact CheckFree at 800/227-5871 or 614/898-6000 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST. Ask for Electronic Banking.

Pain in the Back

Back problems are the greatest single cause of work-disabling injuries, says Stanley Frank, founder and president of Frank Eastern Co., a New York-based office furniture retailer.

"Back injuries cost American industry more than $2 billion per year, $5,000 per worker, due to absenteeism," says Frank. A Yale University-sponsored study found people who sit more than half the time on the job risk a 60 to 70 percent greater chance of herniating a disk than those who move about. Frank notes the hazards can be greater for those 35 or older.



King Associates

While this is bad news for computer users, Frank says the right chair can alleviate back woes.

His suggestions:

- Choose a chair with a pneumatic height-adjustment mechanism.
- Do not sit in a seat that is too deep or too shallow.
- Use a one- to four-inch-thick seat cushion.
- Use a chair with armrests.
- Avoid chairs with "lips" or "weltings" on the front edge of the seat.
- Select a chair with a full-size backrest that features an adjustable lumbar support.

Frank has written a 37-page booklet on chairs and backs, *How to Prevent Office Chair Backache*. For a copy, send $1 to Frank Eastern Co., 599 Broadway, New York, NY 10012.

—John Edwards

Help for Minorities to Succeed in Careers

The National Science Foundation has approved grants totaling $12 million to support local efforts to boost minority participation in the high-tech work force.

NSF Comprehensive Regional Centers for Minorities will be established in New York City, Atlanta and Puerto Rico. The facilities will help minority students—from kindergarten through college—obtain scientific and engineering careers.

Los Angeles, Philadelphia, St. Louis and Norfolk, Va., will receive more modest awards to begin activities at sites planned for prospective centers.

The grants are the first awards to be distributed through a new National Science Foundation program that is designed to encourage partnerships among colleges, universities, community groups, and local and state governments. These groups will work together to create a systematic approach toward solving the critical, nationwide problem of the underrepresentation of minorities in the scientific and technological work force. The programs offered through the centers will be specifically targeted to minority students and will be tuition-free.

The centers will be established in regions of substantial minority population, usually large urban areas but possibly entire states. The centers are expected to seek additional support that will allow them to continue after the completion of the five-year NSF grants.

—John Edwards

The Government, Computers and You

Although dozens of high-technology bills were introduced in the 100th Congress, only a handful are now public law.

The bill that will have the most widespread effect on the public is The Computer Matching and Privacy Protection Act. Computer matching is the automated process of comparing one list against another, highlighting names that match. It is used primarily to fight government fraud and abuse so that, for instance, someone who is on the federal payroll could not also receive welfare benefits. Federal agencies that conduct computer matching will now have to adhere to stricter standards by entering into written agreements and participating in a "data integrity board."

In addition, the new law will offer basic due process protections to individuals whose records are matched. For example, it will be unlawful to immediately suspend federal benefits on the basis of information found in a match. The information must first be verified and the individual must be given a chance to refute it.

Government computer data will be made more secure through the Computer Security Act. This law charges the National Institute of Standards and Technology (formerly the National Bureau of Standards) with overseeing the computer security of civilian federal agencies. Agencies must decide which systems need to be secure based on whether the information contained within is "sensitive."

The Intellectual Property Bankruptcy Protection Act will assure intellectual property licensees of continued access to computer software and other licensed technologies in the event of the licensor's bankruptcy. The law will now allow licensees continued access to the technology, but will not pose undue burdens on the licensor seeking relief under bankruptcy laws.

The Berne Convention Implementation Act will ensure international protection for copyrighted American software, books, records, films and other creative works by allowing the United States to participate in the Berne Convention, an international treaty adopted more than 100 years ago to provide minimum standards of copyright protection among the 75 signatory nations.

The Technology-related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities Act will assist the handicapped in securing high-tech products that would make their lives easier and more productive. The law will set up a program of state grants that will allow the states to establish systems for identifying needs and resources, provide training for professionals, individuals with handicaps, parents and others to create a system for sharing information on the availability and suitability of technological devices.

For information on high-tech legislation pending in the 101st Congress, consult "News from Capitol Hill" in *Online Today Daily Edition* (GO OLT-575).

—Cathryn Conroy

LETTERS

Hey! Wait for Me!

I read with interest the article "Ingenious Interfaces" (December 1988, p. 16). Since I use a Commodore B-128 with BeeLine 2.1, I fall into that ASCII-only, plain-vanilla group of oldies.

My simple, friendly system serves my limited needs well, and I don't expect to upgrade anytime soon. How much longer will I be able to access CompuServe before I am left in the HMI dust?

Greg Smith
Phoenix, Ariz.

Editor's Response: As long as you like. CompuServe will continue to support non-HMI interfaces.

News You Can Mail

In January *Online Today* ("News You Can Choose," p. 16) there was no mention of the ability to send Executive News Service stories to EasyPlex. It would appear that this wonderful feature was left out of an issue devoted to "news you can choose."

Trey Q. Austin
Swan Valley, Idaho

Storm Warnings?

I read with interest and dismay the article by Cathryn Conroy ("Winter Weather Watch," December 1988, p. 12). Has the Forecast Explanation been eliminated?

The twice-daily Selected Cities Summaries (SCS), do not have a wind velocity (direction and speed) forecast, as she stated. And the San Diego and San Francisco forecasts are not included in a single California forecast. There are separate "state" forecasts for northern and southern California.

Further, I called for a Fair Oaks, CA forecast, following the directions listed in Conroy's article, but instead received a central California coast zone forecast.

Norman S. Benes
Fair Oaks, Calif.

Editor's Response: The Forecast Explanation choice was removed from the NWS menu because many users thought the abbreviated messages, written for meteorologists, were confusing. You can still get them by typing SE at the menu prompt.

Since the information provided by each National Weather Service reporting station varies, some forecasts do not include wind velocity. State summaries are sometimes divided into regions, but you can get all of one state's regions by typing LF California (or other state name) at the prompt. And local forecasts for smaller towns are almost always reported by state zones. These reports apply to every city in the zone.

Changing Channels

The article about the CB Simulator (December 1988, p. 24) was well-written, but I was disappointed by author Gayle Brown's omission of the Alternative Lifestyles Channel (33).

One user commented on the diversity of people on CB. If that's worth mentioning, then why no mention of the gay community there? I hope you will be more careful about contributors' personal prejudices influencing their submissions—intentional or not.

Todd VerBeek
Holland, Mich.

Send a Letter

OLT-30 **Letters to the Editor** *main menu. Lists all departments.*

OLT-31 **Send a letter instructions.** *Complete instructions on how to send a letter to the editor via the electronic service.*

OLT-32 **Read letters** *from other OLT readers.*

OLT-33 **Send a letter** *to the editor. You will receive prompts for each step in the process. Important Note: We cannot answer questions regarding the CompuServe Information Service through this service. If you have questions or problems, please use the Feedback service (GO FEEDBACK).*

Need to Keep Up with the Computer and Information Industries?

We publish all the computer industry news every day in *Online Today Daily Edition*. GO OLT-90 from any prompt on the CompuServe Information Service.

ONLINE TODAY

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GO OLI for more information.

DEAR READER

Electronic mail.

What do you think of when you hear those words? If you've had any experience with electronic mail, or "e-mail," in the last few years, it's likely you think of it as a pretty good way to stay in touch with other people who also have computers and happen to subscribe to the same e-mail carrier. Maybe you think of it as a novel, but rather limited tool among the plethora of information service features.

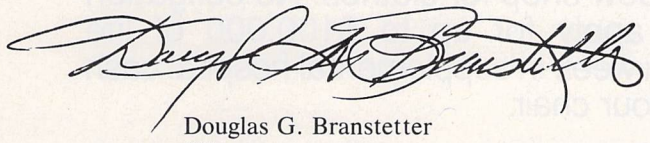
It's still true that electronic mail is a great way to stay in touch with fellow online computer enthusiasts. But with EasyPlex, CompuServe's electronic mail service, you get a lot more than that these days. If you haven't used EasyPlex in a while, we urge you to read this month's cover feature. Many things have changed.

For example, did you know that you can now send EasyPlex to facsimile machines anywhere in the world? The service costs about the same as sending a fax from your own machine—even less if machine operating costs are factored in. CompuServe dials the fax number—and dials repeatedly if the line is busy—until a connection is made. You receive a confirmation message via EasyPlex when the document is sent. Add to that the e-mail advantages of speed, ability to manipulate text and an ever-growing number of international subscribers connecting to an increasing number of other e-mail services, and you have an unbeatable combination.

If you haven't given EasyPlex a try lately—or are not using it as much as you'd like—start reading on page 12 and find out how others are using a service that's more valuable and time-saving than ever.

* * *

If you've always wanted to try CompuServe's Executive Option services, this is the month to do it. For the entire month of March most Executive Option services are open to every CompuServe subscriber. Explore such services as Disclosure II, Ticker Retrieval, I/B/E/S, and many more. If you decide to subscribe to the Executive Option after the trial, you'll get a number of perks including product discounts, a 50 percent increase in online file storage capacity, a sign-up gift and more. For details, check out the article on page 10 of the Business/Investing section.



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ONLINE TODAY

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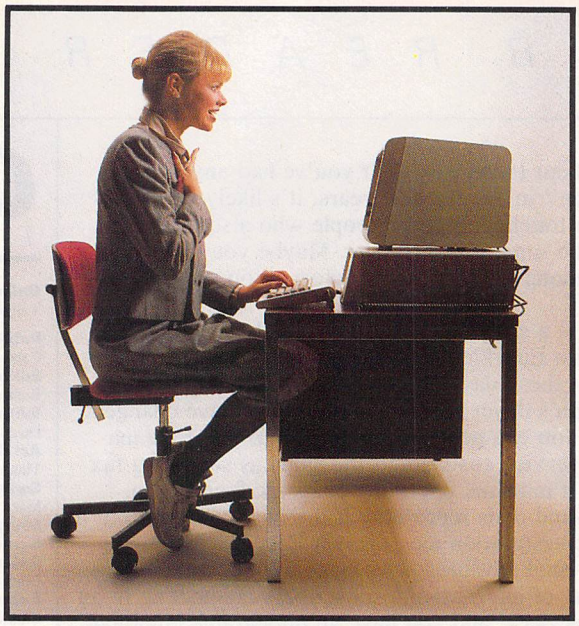

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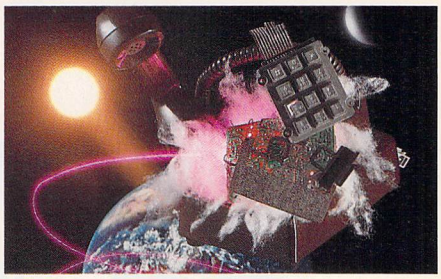

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Bill Eppridge/DOT

LIFESTYLES

America's Cup enthusiasts kept tabs on race progress from start to finish—page 44.

Too Hot to Print

Catch computer industry news as it happens, keep up with online events, read special reports, commentary and more product reviews. You'll find it only in *Online Today Daily Edition*, a daily-updated newspaper full of information that's too hot to print. GO OLT.

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CompuServe®

The publisher of a southern Florida newspaper verifies facts through EasyPlex mail, leading to the exposure of numerous falsifications in a local chamber of commerce executive's resume.

A free-lance music producer sends a telex message to his client, songwriter/musician Barry Manilow, who picks up the printed text upon his arrival at a hotel in the Netherlands.

The owner of a small public relations firm in New Hampshire finds the names of computer magazine editors in CompuServe's subscriber directory. They agree to test his client's software and report their impressions via EasyPlex.

Elliot Stern, Nikon Inc. district sales manager, began using EasyPlex several years ago. He found it expedited orders and sped the process of solving problems.

"Most of us were using Tandy Model 100s for on-the-road communications," Stern says. "CompuServe was a natural for quickly moving the written word around the country." At that time, his primary concern was keeping in touch with Nikon's technical staff. He upgraded to a Zenith 181 for the road and an IBM PC-AT for home use. His modem speed progressed from 300 to 1200 to 2400 baud. Finally, he revamped his office, got a fully loaded Macintosh SE and installed a fax machine.

"The fax machine was a pleasure to use and important to my life. I needed to find a way to duplicate that service on the road," Stern recalls. He tried an Apple fax modem and portable fax machines, but soon found himself hauling more and more equipment on his travels. When CompuServe installed its fax service, "I could go on the road, visit my accounts and get all the problems of the day via fax to anywhere in the world," Stern says. "Electronic mail became the most effective and least expensive way of getting messages to those who could help. And the fact that receivers got hard copy was even better."

Stern and others are finding facsimile machines becoming a way of life. In 1987, the fax market reached $2.3 billion in total revenue, according to the National Office Machines Dealers Association. That market is projected to reach $7.5 billion in 1991.

Despite the popularity of the fax machine, some people still prefer its cousin, the telex machine. EasyPlex mail supports both.

"As the information explosion continues, those of us in PR are faced with more competition for our messages," says Dan Greenleaf of Greenleaf Public Relations, Durham, N.H., who used CompuServe to develop sales strategies for a client's software. "The old reliance on mass media is already obsolete, although many practitioners know nothing else. We must learn to conduct personal relations. EasyPlex, with its direct, personal approach, will be an important tool in that process.

"One of my clients developed a new software program that he wanted me to promote. We needed feedback from users and potential buyers on the most useful components of the program as well as comparisons with similar products. Because it was a new product, we naturally had no users. So we had to get it into some computer users' hands as quickly as possible."

David Niles

> "Responses can be almost instantaneous. In many cases, I've had answers the same day I sent the mail."
>
> —Dan Greenleaf
> PR firm owner

Greenleaf sent EasyPlex messages to editors and columnists of computer magazines as well as to a few CompuServe forum administrators, inviting them to try his client's program and report their impressions.

"Of the 50 we asked to participate, nearly half agreed—excellent results," he says. "I credit EasyPlex for the willingness of these folks to participate. If I had used the phone or traditional mail, we wouldn't have received nearly as good of results.

"When I asked an editor to look at the program, it was a request from a fellow CompuServe user rather than from a PR firm. The other major advantage to EasyPlex is the ease with which you can correspond with others. No need for formal letters. A couple of lines and a few seconds is all it takes. And responses can be almost instantaneous. In many cases, I had answers the same day I sent the mail."

After the first round of testing, forum members were invited to try the software. About 100 people responded via EasyPlex to Greenleaf's invitation. They tried it, filled out surveys and sent them back to Greenleaf. Finally, all who participated were invited to a CB conference with the software developer, who lives in France, to discuss the program and its uses.

"We used EasyPlex throughout the process," Greenleaf says. "The costs for conducting the survey, following up and maintaining regular contact with evaluators was far below what it would have been using the mail or telephone."

Mike Delugg, a free-lance music producer and engineer, wanted to get a message to his friend and client, Barry Manilow, who was on a European concert tour. "My problem was making certain that Barry received the correct messages in a timely fashion and in my own words," Delugg says. "The tour was leaving Antwerp for Amsterdam. I was concerned about making an overseas call in a language I do not speak, with a message for someone who had not yet checked in. I looked in the tour itinerary and found that the next hotel had a telex machine. I knew I could send telex via CompuServe, but I had just never thought I would have the occasion."

Delugg typed HELP TELEX and retrieved the rates and how-to information. "Late that night our phone rang," he says. "The message got through just fine."

Ed Foley, editor and publisher of *The Pompano Ledger*, a small newspaper in the Fort Lauderdale, Fla., area, launched an investigation into a chamber of commerce executive director's credentials. During his investigation, Foley used EasyPlex to confer with journalists in northern US cities in which the director claimed to have worked. The journalists confirmed misleading and contradictory information in the director's credentials. They supplied information and helped steer Foley toward people who could answer his questions.

Foley attended a Society of Professional Journalists convention in Cincinnati last November at which editors and reporters from larger news operations asked how a small newspaper could handle such an investigation. "I explained the EasyPlex angle," Foley says, "and how it got me into the newspapers up north and their files."

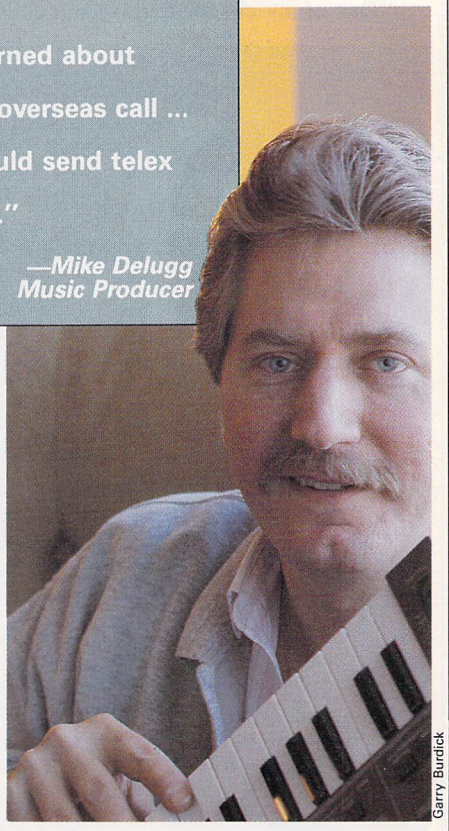
A small advertising agency in Vista, Calif., heeded a client's suggestion some two years ago and subscribed to CompuServe. "Nothing has helped our business more than our understanding and use of electronic mail in general and CompuServe in particular," says Joe M. Turner, partner in the Conaway & Turner marketing and advertising agency.

"While we are small, with only three professionals, we found that a thorough understanding of online systems, data sources and electronic communications can make us as effective as the big guys."

Turner's agency sends activity records to clients after every pertinent telephone call. "These go out by EasyPlex or CompuServe Fax the day of the activity. Our clients respond the same way. This has eliminated problems with invoices, assignment responsibilities and progress reports. Literally, this has taken the surprise out of our business."

Turner includes his firm's CompuServe User ID number on the company's letterhead stationery and business cards. "If new clients do not have CompuServe or a similar service, we buy the initial subscription and show them how to use it," Turner says. "The use of online data sources and communications can make a little company as effective as a big company. We are small, but our clients, without exception, are large, market-dominating companies. And because we can communicate instantly with anyone, anywhere, our clients are located from coast to coast."

> "I was concerned about making an overseas call ... I knew I could send telex via CompuServe."
>
> —Mike Delugg
> Music Producer



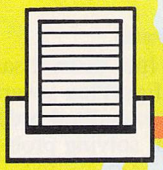
Garry Burdick

Ray Chasse lives amidst the glitz and glamour of Hollywood, but his business is education. Chasse, an economics professor associated with Western International Universities, works with 107 students in 11 countries. As research representative for Phi Delta Kappa, University of Southern California chapter, and chairman of the Western International Independent Scholars Roundtable, he uses EasyPlex to communicate with 50 students and to contact faculty members at universities in St. Louis, Phoenix, San Diego, New Orleans and Toronto.

"I send fax messages to a few students and telex to one in Malaysia to upload assignments and readings," Chasse says. "I have a fax, but find 'online' just as good for things I type. Besides having a WATS line outgoing and an 800 incoming line, I send about 50 paper messages a month. I can tell you from being online two or three hours a day that CompuServe is the best of all these services."

Chasse attended the International Universities Without Walls conference held Dec. 10-16 in Bangkok to present a paper on "Evaluating the Electronic MBA" and conduct a workshop on online education. He took his Toshiba T-1000 and modem so he could stay online while traveling.

"Daily, the use of EasyPlex grows within the company," says Steven R. Scott, director of legal and corporate affairs for TETRA Technologies Inc. "For me, the new CompuServe Fax feature is a godsend, and I personally recommended it to CompuServe



Format:

80 Characters per line

55 Lines per page

8½- by 11-inch paper

50,000 Characters

Fax Facts

CompuServe's fax service supports the commonly used Group 3 fax machines. Messages must be entered in ASCII format, that is, without binary or graphics codes.

Commanding EasyPlex to send to a fax machine is easy. At the Send prompt, type >FAX and a 10-digit phone number. You then will be prompted to insert an attention line, for example, "Attn: John Doe, third floor."

The receiving fax machine gets a message formatted for 80 characters per line, 55 lines per page on 8½- by 11-inch paper. EasyPlex messages can be as long as 50,000 characters.

through Feedback.

"I work away from the office a great deal, but am never at a loss to send a message via fax or a binary file via EasyPlex to another employee, customer, outside patent attorney or supplier from my Toshiba laptop."

TETRA, with more than 150 employees, has corporate offices in The Woodlands, Texas, near Houston. The company got its start with offshore drilling, then expanded its oil and gas operations to chemical manufacturing and advanced technologies in wastewater treatment and environmental clean-up.

"TETRA is in the infancy stage of using CompuServe's EasyPlex, but we are daily adding users and uses," Scott says. "We have been using EasyPlex to transfer ASCII messages and binary files—financial spreadsheet files and word processing files, primarily contracts—between Texas and Pittsburgh."

The company prepares contracts—usually 45,000 to 65,000 bytes in length—in Houston. The files are compressed and transmitted to Pittsburgh for review. "A few hours later, comments and additional text, which is often long, technical stuff, are sent back to Houston for incorporation, without rekeying, into the contract draft. This may occur as many as five times in the process. A final draft is then sent to Pittsburgh for printing and signature." Scott often will draft or modify contracts aboard a DC-9 flight, then transmit them upon arrival.

"The new fax option is great," he says. "I find that, in comparing the cost of regular, long-distance fax to EasyPlex Fax, it is about even if not a little cheaper using CompuServe. More important, however, I now can send a fax from anywhere I can find a telephone to another TETRA office or project site not equipped to call CompuServe. I can send EasyPlex Fax to other attorneys, customers, vendors or co-venturers. And the quality of the copy produced at the fax machine at the other end is far superior to regular fax transmissions—crisp and clear."

Costs:

US 75¢ per first 1,000 characters
25¢ per additional 1,000 characters
Outside US determined by length of message and location

CompuServe attempts to send the fax several times at half-hour intervals. A note confirming that the message was successfully sent is delivered to the sender's EasyPlex mailbox. If the message can't be delivered, it is returned.

Using CompuServe's fax service within the United States, including Alaska and Hawaii, costs 75 cents for the first 1,000 characters and 25 cents for each additional 1,000 characters. Charges for sending to fax machines outside the United States are determined by the recipient's location and message length. Lists of country codes and rates are available in EasyPlex by typing HELP FAX INTERNATIONAL.

> "I send fax messages to a few students and telex to one in Malaysia to upload assignments and readings."
>
> *—Ray Chasse*
> *Economics Professor*

Some users have turned to EasyPlex to solve incompatibility between computers. Carlo Infante, a computer displays consultant in Silicon Valley, used EasyPlex when he collaborated on a business proposal with a partner whose computer was incompatible with his.

Infante, chairman of the Society for Information Display, Bay area chapter, writes meeting notices on his Macintosh II and sends them to a colleague's IBM PC clone. The material is then printed, copied and mailed to the society's membership.

EasyPlex is being used to send and receive foreign language translations in binary files in the United States and many other countries, according to Gabe Bokor, of Accurapid Translation Services in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. Bokor's company switched from MCI Mail, which does not have full binary support, and from direct modem-to-modem transmission, which requires simultaneous presence of the parties and is difficult to use when sending across distant time zones.

"We have been able to expand considerably our international network of subcontractors and customers by using EasyPlex," says Bokor, director of the American Translators Association and past administrator of its Science and Technology Division. "Because we have Macintoshes and IBM PCs and a local area network linking them, we can send and receive files in all popular word processing formats. We also can use translators and serve customers in any country worldwide."

Free-lance writer Bill Clede of Wethersfield, Conn., is technical editor of *Law & Order* magazine. He uses EasyPlex to communicate and hopes more publications get online with electronic communications soon. He has posted a file he calls "Being online is a beneficial necessity" in CompuServe's Outdoor Forum (GO OUTDOOR). In it, he says some editors couldn't care less about electronic mail. "They don't even have computers—yet. When editors learn about the hazards inherent in disk swapping and the vagaries of various BBS programs, they'll gravitate to EasyPlex. It's so much easier. It doesn't require dedicating a machine to wait for a phone call nor long-distance telephone charges to set up an appoint-

ment for a direct connect."

Clede points to the convenience of EasyPlex—reading and responding at leisure, and no more typing, printing, addressing envelopes, buying stamps, traveling to a mailbox and then waiting days or weeks for a reply.

Computer News for Physicians is one of those publications now using EasyPlex to exchange draft and edited versions of manuscripts with authors, reports Sue Frisch, editor of the magazine. One of her authors also submits articles via MCI Mail.

"My farthest-flung contributor, a Japanese physician who uses NiftyServe to call in from Tokyo, wrote 'A Letter from Japan,'" Frisch says. "It ended with a plea to readers to get in touch and build a bridge between US and Japanese physicians."

Larry Brown, traveling regional sales manager for Lowrey Organ Inc., LaGrange Park, Ill., uses the EasyPlex Fax and Telex services.

"Electronic services seem to get the attention of my boss faster than a phone call," Brown says. "We do a lot of binary transfers in WordPerfect 5.0 format. He just re-formats for his printer and, voilà! Because I have a T-3200, most of these reports are sent from motel rooms. It sure beats carrying a fax or telex machine in my luggage." Brown plans to begin transferring all of his dealer reports online.

"There are times my office needs a written report quickly, or I need to get someone's attention more quickly than a phone call would," he says. "I then use Telex via CompuServe's EasyPlex. Using TAPCIS, I write a message, which TAPCIS sends to EasyPlex, and EasyPlex later sends me a notice confirming the time the message was sent.

"The office loves it, I love it, and it saves me dialing and redialing until the machine is available. CompuServe does that for me. The office may subscribe to CompuServe for that very purpose." he says. "We send telexes to Japan and Italy on a daily basis, and a secretary has to stand there until the thing works. She could do something else after dial

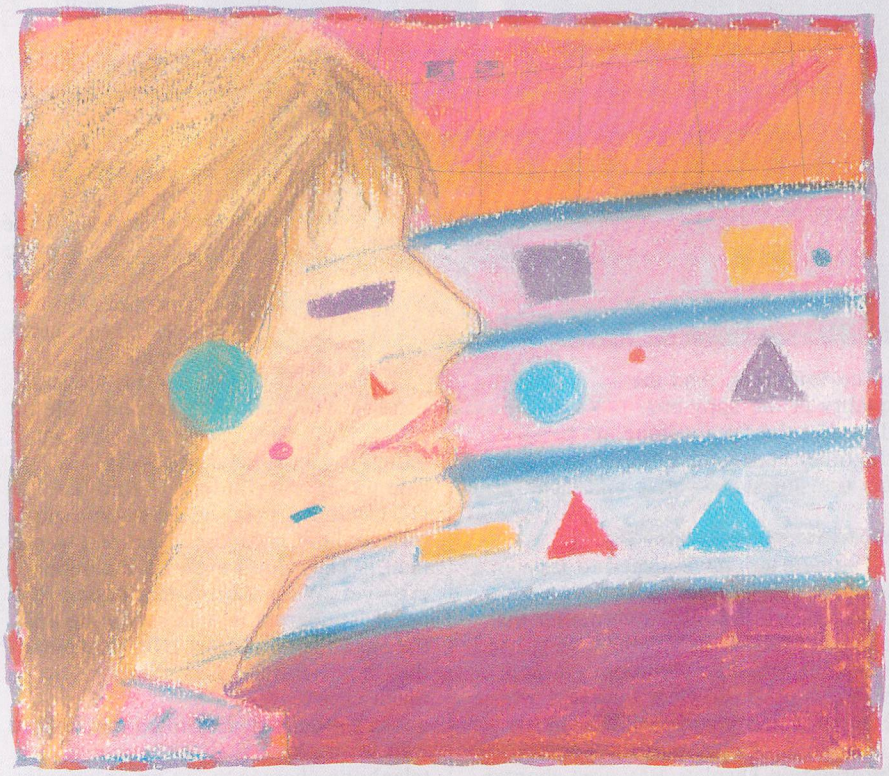
Narrow the Miles to Family and Friends

by Randy Rendfeld

Her father rarely sits in front of a computer screen, yet Margaret Campbell, a graduate student in Chapel Hill, N.C., regularly sends him electronic mail. Campbell keeps in touch with her parents by calling CompuServe, uploading messages to EasyPlex, then sending them to the fax machine at her father's company, which has a dedicated line that is always on.

Other CompuServe users report abandoning paper, envelopes, stamps and long intervals between letters for the quicker means offered by EasyPlex.

Don Crossman and his best friend of 18 years, Emil Mercado, live less than a mile apart in the Syracuse, N.Y., area, and Mercado works at Crossman's video rental store, VideoHaus, in Cazenovia, N.Y. "Employing and working for friends is a tight-rope walk at best," says Crossman. "Plexing can take the heat and emotion out of an argument. We can read each other's point of view and respond rationally. It works for us."



Artists Only

Several years ago, when Crossman was living in another state, the two friends found uploading to EasyPlex was comparable in cost to mailing letters but without the hassles. "We discussed the things people normally discuss in a phone call or a letter, but it was cheaper than a phone call and quicker than a letter," Crossman says. "Because we have known each other for nearly 20 years, since high school, a serious argument could easily have repercussions both of us would long regret."

One time the two had an argument over finances. "Emil left a long note, composed with WordPerfect," Crossman says, "in which he made several remarks that could have been construed as insubordinate, particularly in other circumstances. Perhaps realizing that, he said in the note, 'Don't bother calling me to explain your side. I know your side. If you want me to show up on Thursday, you can plex me.' I did plex him. My response was simply, 'You're not fired. Unless you've decided to quit, I'll speak to you Thursday.' He didn't quit, and our differences had been cleared up once again, as always with true friends."

Two years ago, Kevin Grantham was transferred by his company to London. Since then, EasyPlex has become a family affair. "First, I talked several

ing CompuServe and sending it."

Sharon Van Alstine owns a small corporate communications business, Electronic Workstation of Wyckoff, N.J., and uses EasyPlex to stay in touch with clients during weekends, off-hours and across time zones.

"Recently I found myself in need of some experts in scuba diving and underwater photography," Van Alstine says. "A client, a world-famous yachting concern, asked me for a proposal on how to market a hotel in the Caribbean that seemed to attract only divers. I went into the Scuba Forum (GO DIVING) and the Photography Forum (GO PHOTOFORUM) asking for input. More than 20 divers and photographers responded, giving me enough information to get started. Once I selected a few people I wanted to keep as resources, we switched to EasyPlex to stay in touch."

She found one of her contacts lives a few miles from her home, so they met and worked face-to-face on the plan. Another contact lives in her hometown, so Van Alstine is able to catch up on news from there.

Although EasyPlex has helped speed communications across time zones, Van Alstine shows that the information is taking root in family affairs. "I like putting messages on my husband's computer at work," she says. "That way I don't interrupt him unnecessarily."

Joel Hitt and Elizabeth Mauldin were co-workers at Community Psychiatric Centers Parkwood Hospital, Atlanta, Ga., for four years until last August, when they accepted jobs in different departments of the 150-bed hospital. They'd discovered EasyPlex as co-workers, and had used it to exchange work-related information. But now it's the primary link in their friendship.

In November, Hitt and Mauldin were co-awarded plaques at the hospital's annual employee awards dinner, After accepting the award, Mauldin said to Hitt, before a crowd of 150 employees, "It's nice to see you again ... I don't get to talk to you except on CompuServe!"

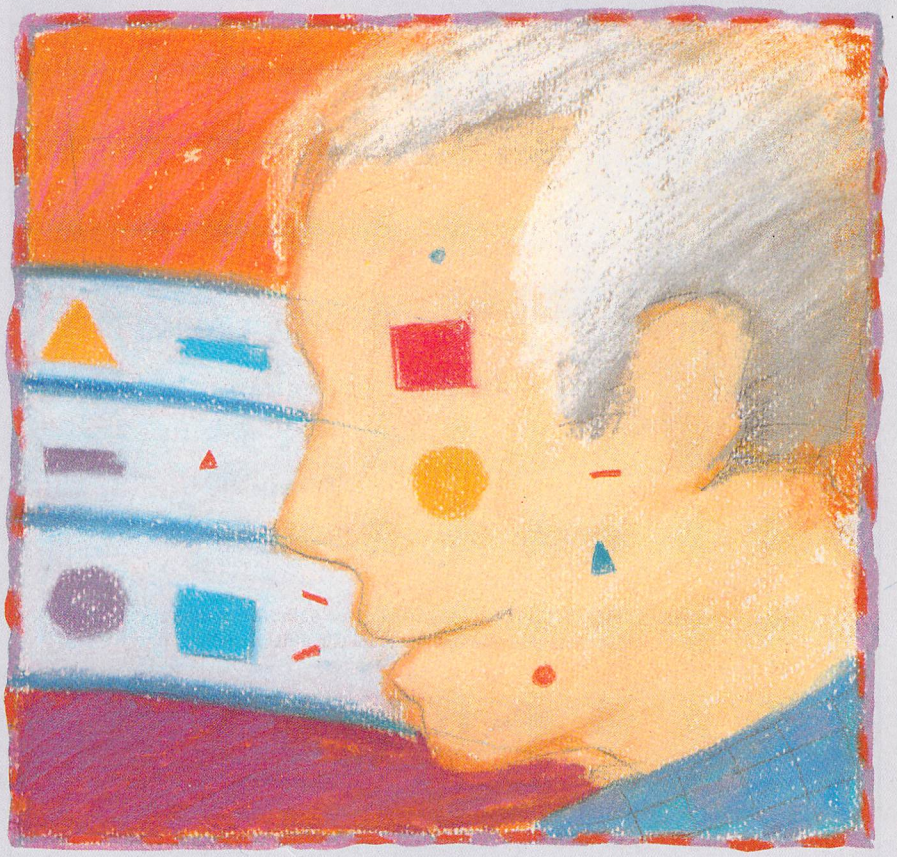
Randy Rendfeld, formerly an education reporter, is a free-lance writer and bureau news reporter for The Muncie (Ind.) Star. *His CompuServe User ID number is 76004,1470.*

members of my family into becoming CompuServe subscribers," he says. "I have two of three sisters and one of two brothers on the service now. One of my parents, my wife's parents and my other brother are in the process of joining. I receive and send about six letters per week from family alone. With relatives spread from California to Florida, and with me in England, we keep communications open. It is much easier to drop a note about some topic when it occurs to you than to scrounge around for pen and paper, envelope, stamps and addresses."

Steve Stogdill, of Granger, Ind., began using EasyPlex to keep in touch with family and friends when his brother lived in Texas. "Because we never seem to be home on the first phone call, electronic mail is the perfect answer," Stogdill says. "And if we stick to the upload and download function rather than composing online, it is cheaper than a phone call where we would ramble for an hour, forgetting half the things we meant to discuss." Occasionally, he writes letters to his 92-year-old grandfather, which his brother downloads, prints and delivers.

Stogdill uses the new EasyPlex Fax service to communicate with his in-laws, who live in Culver, Ind. They aren't comfortable with "just chatting" on the phone, he says. "They are in a hurry to curtail a long-distance charge. Fax has enabled us to keep them up to date on the new abilities of their granddaughter."

For Stogdill, EasyPlex narrows the miles between family and friends. "It has served to keep my families closer and better informed as to what is going on in a more personal, day-to-day basis," he says. "It allows quality visiting, even if not in person."



Valerie Zen, sometimes known as "VGA Val," likes to send roses to people. They don't require a florist or FTD delivery. Her roses bloom as GIF pictures in EasyPlex mail.

"I send roses to people all the time," Val explains. "Usually a bright red rosebud with green leaves on a stark black background for those with Super VGA capabilities. Others usually get the black on white rose, or maybe the white on black one, depending on my mood. It surprises them, makes them smile, just to have somebody do something special for them."

Deliver Your Opinion with Electronic Ease

by Cathryn Conroy

CompuServe makes it easy and efficient for you to get the attention of national lawmakers on Capitol Hill through the electronic speed of CONGRESSgrams. Sent via EasyPlex, CONGRESSgrams are personalized, hard-copy letters delivered by the US Postal Service to members of the US House of Representatives and the US Senate.

Members of Congress debate a wide array of issues, from well-publicized treaties and trade bills to lesser-known measures such as those that would allow unlimited overtime for forest firefighters, authorize insurance of certain mortgages for first-time home buyers or prohibit certain commercial uses of automatic telephone dialing systems.

"I believe that it is not the privilege but the responsibility of citizens to communicate their views on issues of personal concern and expertise to elected officials," says David E. Lattan, an engineer with Prairie Farms Dairy in Carbondale, Ill. Lattan frequently sends CONGRESSgrams to his district representative and the Illinois senators on matters involving the Federal Communications Commission and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Although he addresses his concerns to government agency officials first, Lattan often finds that they are unresponsive. But he has discovered that input to Congress can make a difference. "It is handy for me to be able to log on to CompuServe and express my thoughts to members of Congress on a timely basis."

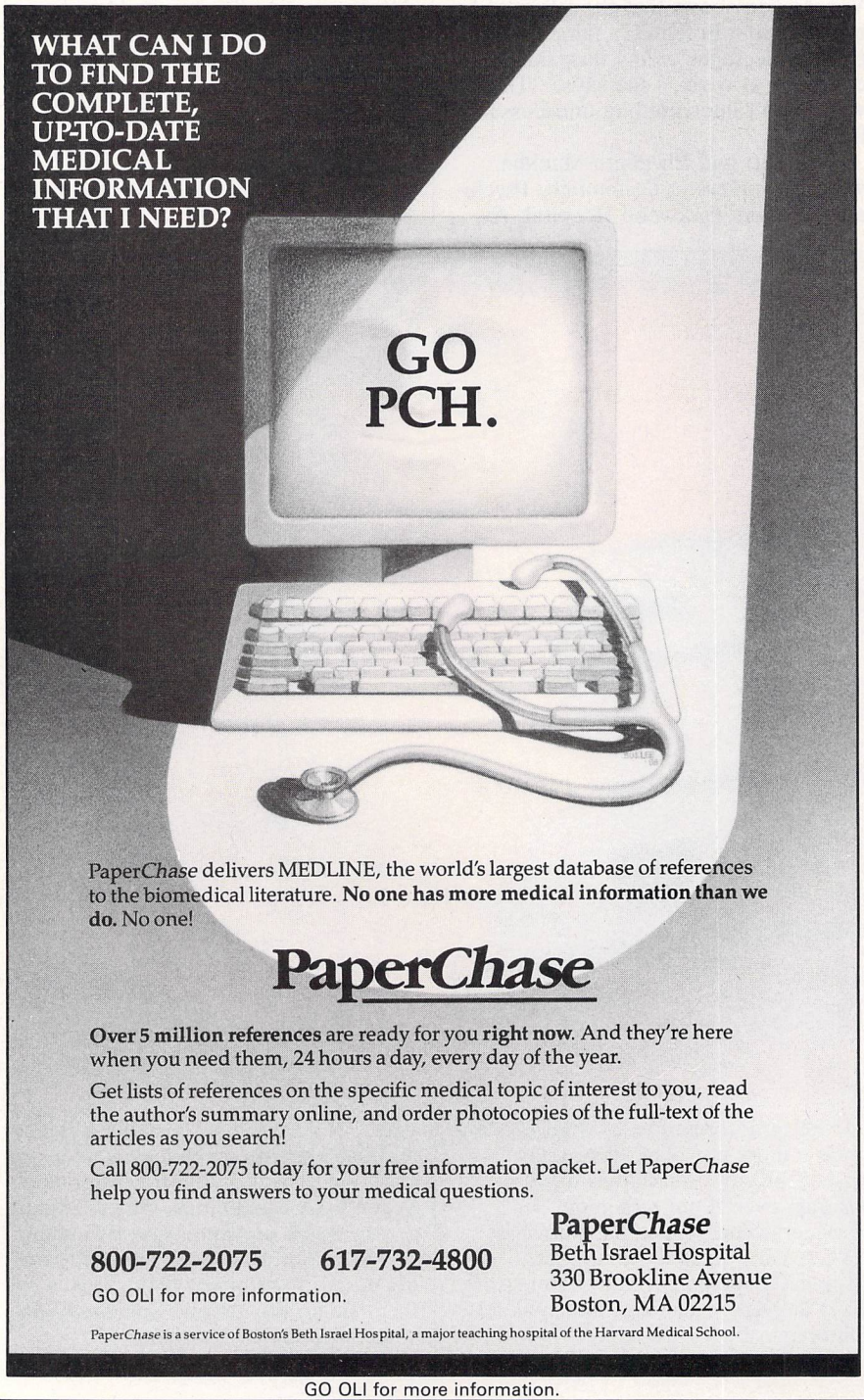
To compose a CONGRESSgram, select Option 9 from the main EasyPlex menu. (If you are using the command or prompt mode, type CONGRESS at the main EasyPlex prompt.) You will be prompted to enter the recipient's name, the text of your message, the subject, your name and postal address. EasyPlex automatically enters the senator's or representative's address, the salutation, "Dear Honorable" and the closing "Sincerely," followed by the subscriber's name, address and CompuServe User ID number. The message can be as long as 88 lines and up to 69 characters wide.

If you prefer to compose your message offline, you can upload the file directly into the CONGRESSgram workspace by typing /UPLOAD. EasyPlex then prompts you to upload your file.

CONGRESSgrams combine the convenience of electronic mail with the look of a printed, formal letter. The CONGRESSgram is produced with an impact printer on plain white paper and is delivered the next business day. Each CONGRESSgram carries a $1 surcharge to cover postage, printing, paper and envelopes.

A complete listing of all members of the House of Representatives and the Senate is organized by state and available in the Member of Congress directory (GO FCC-6). For online help in sending a CONGRESSgram, type HELP CONGRESSGRAM at the main EasyPlex prompt.

Other special "grams" are available during certain seasons. For instance, a CUPIDgram can be sent to your true love on Valentine's Day and a SANTAgram, complete with a return address of the North Pole, can bring holiday tidings to friends and children.



GO OLI for more information.

New Forum Files Run the Gamut

The libraries in CompuServe's forums are filled with thousands of programs and textfiles. The following are a few of the files uploaded to the forum libraries in recent months. For a more up-to-date list of uploads, check the weekly "Uploads" columns in *Online Today Daily Edition* by typing GO OLT-3700 at any CompuServe Information Service prompt.

AMIGATECH FORUM
(GO AMIGATECH)

Disk Checker—Version 4.0 of Disk Storage, a program to display the free space on all of your currently mounted devices. Contains an alarm that warns you when the free space in any device drops below a level you specify. New version includes variable update rates, disk full percentage display, time/date display and disk protect tab state. File STORG4.ARC in Library 13.

ASHTON-TATE FORUM
(GO ASHFORUM)

Billing System—Time is Money 2.1, a shareware time-and-expense billing accounting system written in dBase III. File TIM21.ARC in Library 2.

ATARI 8-BIT FORUM
(GO ATARI8)

The Thinker—Al, the artificial intelligence simulation thinker. A "friend ready to chat," he remembers your name, plays games and more. File THINKE.ALF in Library 1.

ATARI ST ARTS FORUM
(GO ATARIARTS)

Maze Maker—AMAZING Construction Set, a computer drawing and maze-generating program that enables you to draw shapes the computer turns into mazes. You can solve the mazes or have the computer solve them. File AMAZE1.ARC in Library 2.

BORLAND PROGRAMMING FORUM A
(GO BPROGA)

Cataloger—PibCat, a disk cataloging program with several formatting options. PibCat lists files and the contents of popular library file types, such as .ARC, .DWC, .LBR, .MD and .ZOO files. File PIBCAT.ARC in Library 2.

COMMODORE MUSIC, GRAPHICS AND GAMES FORUM
(GO CBMART)

Bach's Best—The complete Brandenburg Concertos of Johann Sebastian Bach, transcribed for Sidplayer by John Mackey. Can be played on a Commodore computer with the aid of one of the MUS files, also available in the forum. The six concertos can be found in separate SDA files in Library 5, BRAND1.IMG through BRAND6.IMG. Library 10 has programs that play original and enhanced Sidplayer files.

COMPUTER CONSULTANT FORUM
(GO CONSULT)

Online Acronyms—A short dictionary of acronyms you might see in messages and conferences on CompuServe. File ACRON.DOC in Library 0.

EDUCATION FORUM
(GO EDFORUM)

School Conference Help—Practical advice to parents and teachers on getting the most out of the annual parent-teacher conference. Prepared by forum member Carl Lefevre, a guidance counselor and consultant to schools. File PARENT.CON in Library 6.

GAMERS' FORUM
(GO GAMERS)

Traffic Jam—*Rush Hour*, a game for IBM PCs and compatibles in which you try to avoid gridlock by controlling traffic lights and other variables. Shareware. File RUSHHR.ARC in Library 13.

GOOD EARTH FORUM
(GO GOODEARTH)

Record Keeper—The Animal History and Health Maintenance Program by Howard M. Maculsay runs on IBM PCs and compatibles. Keeps data on vital statistics, ancestry, medical history, general health, training, birthing and exhibitions as well as future appointments. Files ANIMAL.ARC and ANMUTL.ARC in Library 7.

IBM SYSTEMS/UTILITIES FORUM
(GO IBMSYS)

Driver Directory—DEVICE, a shareware program that displays a directory of the resident device drivers loaded by a "DEVICE=" line in the CONFIG.SYS line. File DEVICE.ARC in Library 3.

IBM APPLICATIONS FORUM
(GO IBMAPP)

File Converter—A program to convert IBM DisplayWrite 3 or 4 files to standard ASCII files. Can be used to drop soft returns or convert to hard returns. Expand tabs to spaces to retain them, drop unwanted spaces and make font enhancements such as underlining. File CONVDW.ARC in Library 2.

INVESTORS' FORUM
(GO INVFORUM)

Real Estate Help—PCAGENT, a prospect card filing system for real estate agents and insurance salesmen. Features 16 predefined search fields, eliminating the need to define records and fields. Shareware. File PCAGEN.ARC in Library 14.

MAUG MAC FUN FORUM
(GO MACFUN)

Space Combat—*NetTrek 2.0*, a multiplayer, real-time space combat game. Up to five players can play using an Appletalk network. File NTREK2.SIT in Library 3.

MAUG HYPERFORUM
(GO APPHYPER)

User Feedback—Progress XCMD provides graphic feedback to the user as to whether everything is OK during the execution of long scripts. Displays a dialog box that shows percent complete as the script runs. File PROGRE in Library 11.

MCS MIDI FORUM
(GO MIDI)

MIDI Books—A bibliography of books about MIDI for beginners. File BOOKS.TXT in Library 3.

MILITARY VETERANS FORUM
(GO VETFORUM)

Vietnam Vets—Transcript of an online conference with Mary Stout, president of the Vietnam Veterans of America. Issues include why the VVA criticized Vice President-elect Dan Quayle on national television, funding and membership requirements. File VVACON.TXT in Library 8.

TANDY PROFESSIONAL FORUM
(GO TRS80PRO)

Star Map—Plots a star map of any area of the sky as seen at any time of the day and year. For the Tandy 1000 series. Uses enhanced CGA. Mouse recommended but not required. File STRMPS.ARC in Library 5.

WORDPERFECT SUPPORT GROUP FORUM
(GO WPSG)

Instant Menus—A pull-down menu system for WordPerfect 5.0 created with Instant Menus from Pliable Products. New version works with Hercules Incolor cards and RAMfonts. File WPMEN.ARC in Library 0.

David Peyton co-authored How to Get the Most Out of CompuServe. *His CompuServe User ID number is 76703,244.*

CompuServe offers a variety of products that help you get the most out of every online session. The Spring Fingershopping sale is the place to find valuable savings on CompuServe merchandise from March 1, 1989, through April 30, 1989.

Product Guides

Free $10 Usage Credit

with every* CompuServe Users Guide *ordered online.

(It's like getting the guide for free.)

If you're an Information Service user, but don't own a copy of the *CompuServe Users Guide* (5/88 version), then we urge you to take advantage of this limited-time offer. By getting this $24.95 value for $9.95, you get your money back, and more, in connect time alone.

This comprehensive, 200-page guide will help you make the most of online connect time. Speaking of connect time, you receive a $10 usage credit with each guide. This guide is also included in the CompuServe Membership Kit.

The guide covers: EasyPlex® electronic mail; the Executive News Service; the National Bulletin Board; Citizen's Band Simulator; special interest forums; information transfers to and from your computer; travel services; financial services; electronic shopping; interactive games; and more.

For further assistance, a System Configuration Diagram and Quick Reference booklet also come with each *CompuServe Users Guide*.

Retail price	**$14.95**
FREE usage credit	**10.00**
Total value	**$24.95**
You pay	**$9.95**

Remember, offer is only valid for online orders.

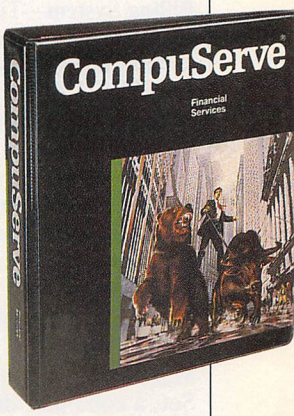
CompuServe Almanac (Fourth Edition)

With so many online areas on the CompuServe Information Service, you probably have not visited all of them. *CompuServe Almanac* (Fourth Edition) lets you get acquainted with unfamiliar areas without visiting them individually online. More than 300 pages are loaded with helpful features, presenting products in "workbook" style to help you research and recall key destinations. The *Almanac* is certain to pay for itself in connect-time savings.

Reg. $12.95 Save $5.00 $7.95

(Free with qualifying order of $50 or more)

CompuServe Financial Services Users Guide



This informative guide is an exhaustive analysis of the financial services on CompuServe. It explains, in-depth, how to use each service effectively. Ideal for new or veteran investors. A classic case of minimal investment, high return.

Reg. $13.95
Save $4.00 $9.95

IQuest Database Directory

Use IQuest more efficiently and effectively with this guide published by CompuServe. The guide provides a description of each database and is broken down by subject for easy reference. IQuest users will find this a valuable tool to expedite research and conserve connect time.

$3.95

More CompuServe online products have instructional guides to help you make the most of your connect time in designated areas. Type GO ORDER to access the Online Order Area and view a more complete list of guides, manuals and CompuServe merchandise.

CompuServe Connections

Custom CompuServe software is unparalleled when it comes to getting the most out of every minute you spend online.

The CompuServe Information Service Membership Kit

Put a family member, friend or business acquaintance online with The CompuServe Information Service Membership Kit. The kit includes a copy of the *Users Guide*, a Quick Reference manual, a System Configuration Diagram, plus:

- a $25 introductory usage credit
- a personal User ID number and private password
- a list of Information Service rates and local telephone access numbers
- a subscription to *Online Today* magazine

$39.95

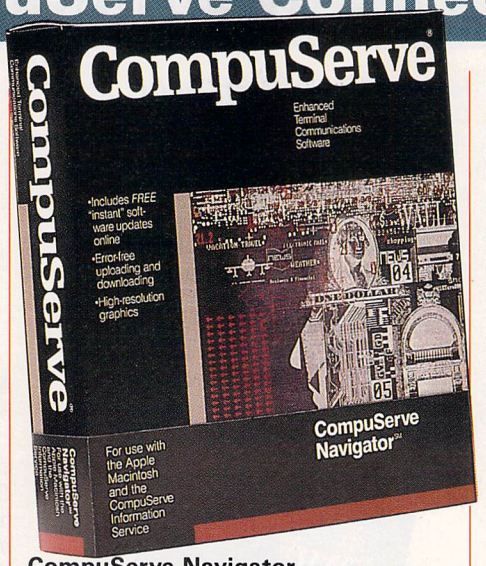
VIDTEX Terminal Communications Software

Link up to the CompuServe Information Service with custom CompuServe VIDTEX communications software. Whether you have an Apple®, Atari® or Commodore®, you'll get the ideal connection with VIDTEX. (Complete information about VIDTEX compatibility requirements is available online: GO VIDTEX.) Only CompuServe offers this complete communications software package that includes:

- "instant," free software updates online
- error-free uploading and downloading on CompuServe
- low- and medium-resolution graphics
- automatic logon and menu navigation files
- programmable function keys
- capture buffer
- adjustable communication settings
- cursor positioning
- support of Hayes-compatible modems

VIDTEX works with the Atari 800, 800 XL, 600 XL with 64 K, 1200 XL, 65 XE, 130 XE, the Apple II Family, Commodore 64, TRS-80 Model III and Color Computer.

$39.95



CompuServe Navigator Communications Software (version 3.0)

The all-new CompuServe Navigator communications software for the Macintosh lets you automate online access to the CompuServe Information Service via Host Micro Interface. Simply specify your online tasks and destinations and CompuServe Navigator does the rest. It works more efficiently on the Information Service than any other communications software for the Mac, thus conserving online time. CompuServe Navigator includes the following and more:

- latest version of CompuServe's enhanced B protocol; 30 percent faster than industry standard XMODEM
- support of GIF graphics
- offline composition capabilities

Suggested retail $99.95

Introductory price $79.95

Version 3.0 is due for release in March!

Note: If you own an earlier version of CompuServe Navigator and wish to upgrade, type GO VIDTEX online for complete instructions.

Professional Connection™-Version 3

This powerful software package for the IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT and most compatibles has the features of VIDTEX, plus more. Professional Connection-Version 3 provides colorful financial charts, pictures and weather maps with CompuServe's GIF protocol, NAPLPS and RLE graphics. With a few keystrokes, you can connect with your online destination. Professional Connection-Version 3 includes the following and more:

- latest version of CompuServe's B protocol for faster, error-free downloads
- 110-9600 baud support
- Remote Job Script Command Language
- terminal settings directory
- custom menus
- menu or command driven
- full screen text editor
- VT100 terminal emulation

Note: We are currently distributing Version 3.1d. If you already own Version 3 and wish to upgrade to 3.1d, type GO VIDTEX online for complete instructions.

$49.95

Books and Periodicals

Several books have been written for CompuServe by independent authors to help Information Service members use the service as efficiently and effectively as possible. CompuServe's monthly publication, *Online Today*, is another valuable resource for staying abreast of events in the online computing world.

Back Issues of *Online Today* Magazine

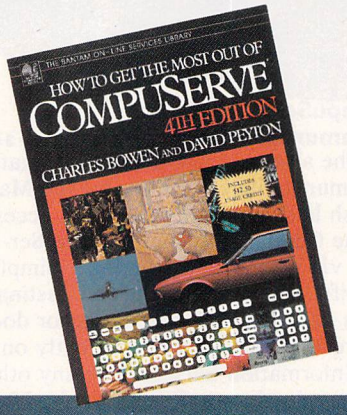
Online Today magazine's back issues represent an archive of incisive articles tracking the evolution and impact of computer information and communication. Use a list of back issues online, to obtain editions missing from your set. (Quantities for some issues are limited.)

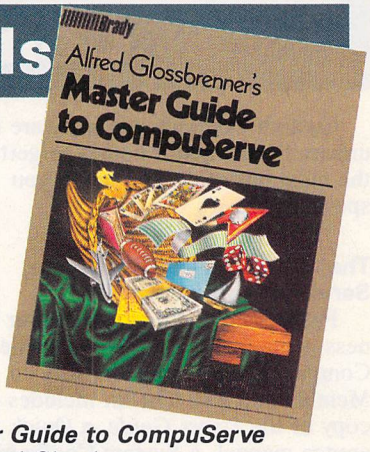
Reg. $2.50 **Save** $1.00 **$1.50**

***How To Get the Most Out Of CompuServe* (Fourth Edition)**
by Charles Bowen and David Peyton

This newly-revised, Fourth Edition is a valuable resource for accomplished CompuServe users, novices and even non-members. The previous three editions received high acclaim for their step-by-step discussions of CompuServe's leading products. And this new edition promises to be even better. Plus, each book includes a $12.50 usage credit!

Reg. $19.95 **Save** $3.00 **$16.95**





Master Guide to CompuServe
by Alfred Glossbrenner

From the author of several online computing books comes the *Master Guide to CompuServe*, written for novice and advanced CompuServe members alike. According to the author, it not only explains how to use the service, but gives you the necessary tools to keep up with the constant expansion of the CompuServe Information Service. It is an invaluable resource for CompuServe members at all levels.

Reg. $19.95 **Save** $3.00 **$16.95**

Attractive Apparel

CompuServe's array of recreational attire lets you show support for your favorite online game or CompuServe as a whole.

BLACKDRAGON T-Shirt

Clad yourself in stylish battle gear with this black and white BlackDragon T-shirt. A must for any true dragon-slayer. Adult sizes S, M, L, XL.

$7.95

Island of Kesmai T-Shirt

Look your best for your next visit to the island. This Island of Kesmai T-shirt is the ideal attire for encounters with island inhabitants. Available only in grey. Adult sizes S, M, L, XL.

$7.95

CompuServe Logo T-shirt

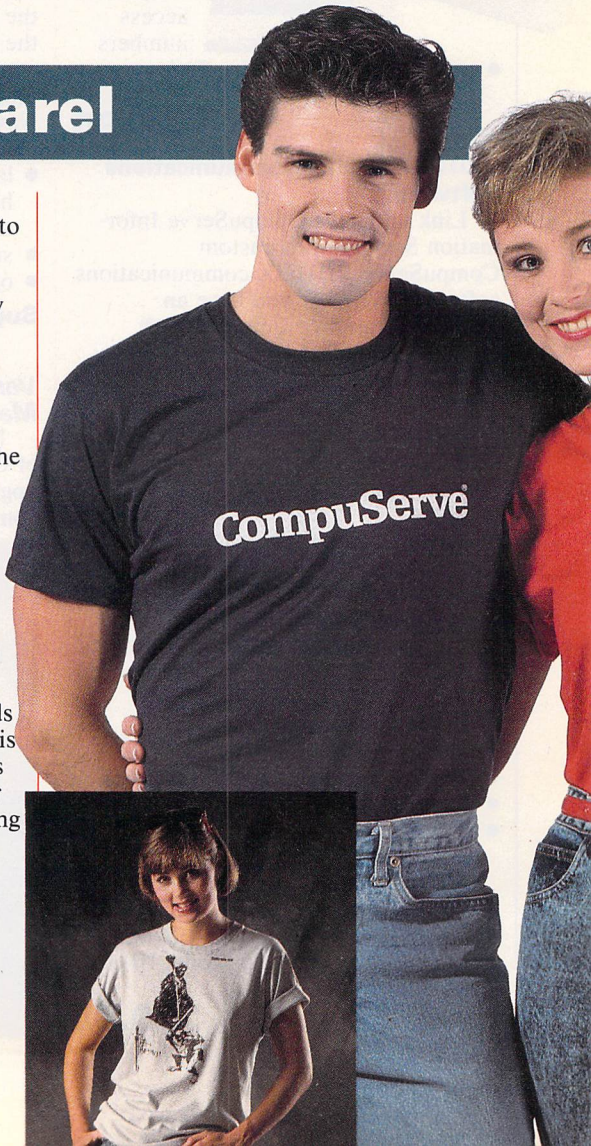
Announce your role as one of the leaders. Display online allegiance to the nation's leading information service with this cotton/poly T-shirt silk-screened with the CompuServe logo. Available in light blue, navy blue and red. Adult sizes S, M, L, XL. Child sizes S, M, L.

$7.95

British Legends T-Shirt

As you traverse the unfamiliar lands of British Legends, clad yourself in this attractive British Legends T-shirt. It's a great way to outwardly display your enthusiasm for this exciting role-playing game. Available only in red. Adult sizes S, M, L, XL.

$7.95

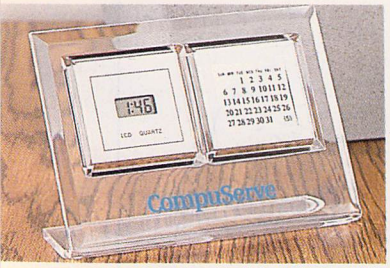


CompuServe Corner

An eclectic mix of CompuServe merchandise is offered during this Fingershopping sale. But it's not all that can be found in the special Online Order Area. Type GO ORDER online to get the complete list of CompuServe products.

CompuServe Digital Desk Clock

This contemporary timepiece, mounted within a clear lucite desk stand for high visibility, is a pleasant addition to any computer workstation — home or office. It prominently displays the CompuServe logo and comes with a perpetual calendar in an adjacent window.



Reg. $10.95 Save $5.45 $5.50

CompuServe Information Service System Configuration Wall Chart

This 35″ x 33″ poster (5/88 version) depicts all screens appearing on the Top Menu and all screens accessible from those initial choices. Extremely helpful for Information Service navigation.

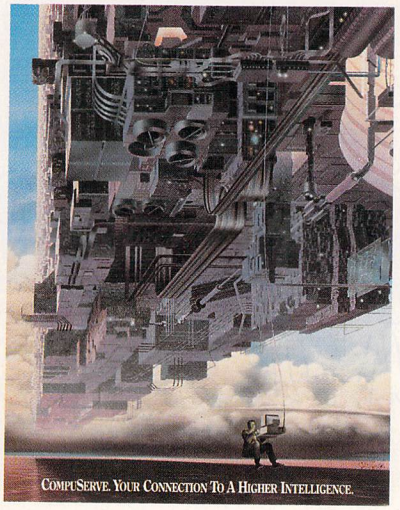
$3.95

(Free with any purchase of $25 or more)

Higher Intelligence Poster

This detailed rendering of the "higher intelligence" image, produced exclusively for CompuServe, is a colorful and mind-boggling piece of art that will enhance any office or den. Poster is 18 ½″ x 24″.

Only $7.95



CompuServe Three-ring Binders with Logo

1½″ spine, for 8½″ x 11″ pages (white with grey print; vinyl) **$2.95**

2″ spine, for 8½″ x 11″ pages (white with grey print; vinyl) **$3.50**

1″ spine for 5½″ x 8½″ pages (white with grey print; vinyl) **$2.50**

CompuServe Wrist Watches

These distinctively smart and incredibly accurate timepieces compliment any attire—business or casual. With Swiss movement and quartz drive, each watch is guaranteed accurate within two minutes a year. Aesthetically pleasing with cut gold-finished hour indicators over a brushed satin face, the watches display the CompuServe logo in subtle grey. Plus a genuine grained ebony leather strap. Available in men's or women's styles.

Only $29.95

CompuServe Gift Certificates

Give the gift of CompuServe anytime. Twenty-five dollar gift certificates can be applied to future online usage charges. A CompuServe gift certificate is a useful and unique gift for any online enthusiast.

$25.00 each

(handling fee already included)

Free *CompuServe Almanac*

with qualifying purchases of $50 or more! ($12.95 value)

Each Fingershopping order of $50 or more comes with a free *CompuServe Almanac*. Use this offline tool for optimum online competence.

$25 orders get you a free gift, too.

Every Fingershopping order totaling $25 to $49.99 is accompanied by a free CompuServe Information Service System Configuration Wall Chart (5/88 version; a $3.95 value).

All premiums are included automatically in qualifying orders. Fingershopping customers qualify for one premium only.

All items purchased from the Online Order Area count toward incentive item qualification.

To order, type **GO ORDER** at any Information Service prompt.

This command also allows you to view descriptions and prices for Fingershopping products and other CompuServe merchandise.

Non-subscribers may order by calling **800/848-8199**.

Weekdays 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Eastern time.
Saturdays 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. Eastern time.

Based on the total price of merchandise, postage and handling is calculated according to the following scale and added to the total price.

Amount	Postage/handling
$0 – $.99	$.50
$1.00 – $14.99	$2.50
$15.00 – $49.99	$3.00
$50 and up	$4.00

Canadian orders must add $2.50 to all orders more than $1.

International shipments

Amount	Postage/handling
$0 – $14.99	$5.00
$15.00 – $50.00	$12.50
$50 and up	$17.50

CompuServe®

Corporate Headquarters
5000 Arlington Centre Blvd.
P.O. Box 20212
Columbus, Ohio 43220

Shop Online

and lose the wait.

SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY OFFER FOR COMPUSERVE SUBSCRIBERS!

3 MONTHS FOR $1

You use your PC to make many chores quick and easy. Now do the same when shopping. Use Shoppers Advantage to buy over 250,000 name-brand products at savings of 10%—50% off the manufacturers' suggested retail prices!

- **User-friendly convenience** We're open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Browse online, order online and have your purchases delivered to your door. Simple menus and step-by-step instructions make it easy.
- **Tremendous selection** Without leaving the comfort of your home or office, compare makes and models, compare name-brands—best of all, compare prices!
- **Low price guarantee** If you can find a lower price on an item you buy from us, we'll refund the difference*.
- **Double warranties** You can double the manufacturers' warranty up to one year at no additional cost.*
- **Free catalogs** We'll keep you informed about our latest "Best Buys" and exciting additions to our database of fine products!
- **Enroll today** Sign on to CompuServe and enter **GO SAC** to have full membership privileges for 3 months for just $1. Then, unless you notify us, we will continue your membership and bill you for the low annual fee of $30. And, of course, you can cancel and receive a full refund at any time during the first year.

Enter GO SAC or
Call 1-800-843-7777

Shoppers Advantage®
ON THE ELECTRONIC MALL®

© 1989, CUC International Inc.
Shoppers Advantage is a service of CUC International Inc.
The Electronic Mall is a service of CompuServe
*Conditions of our Low Price Guarantee and Double Warranty Policy and can be read on-line.

B190T

Sample the world's premier, and most complete on-line shopping service!

GO OLI for more information.

Go Mall

A GUIDE TO COMPUSERVE'S ELECTRONIC MALL® MARCH/APRIL 1989

Test drive at your terminal: on-screen showrooms from Ford and Buick

Find games people play at Games Galore

Yours for the picking: Apple and Macintosh products at Programs Plus

Spotlight on Springtime: some of the freshest discoveries yet

Let the Easter eggs roll! The Mall's First Annual Easter Egg Hunt

THE ELECTRONIC MALL®

Eight weekends of free connect

Get to Know The Mall, on us

DEAR SHOPPER

Dear Shopper,

My favorite thing about shopping? Discovering the new. Sure, I like a quick buy as much as the next guy, but what I really like on a trip to The Mall—The Electronic Mall or any other—is stumbling upon a new store, unearthing a real bargain, encountering the unexpected.

On a recent trip to The Electronic Mall, for example, I toured the tulip fields of Holland through Williams & Eeden Garden Center, and visited the Florida citrus groves of Indian River Citrus.

At Windham Hill, I found online biographies of many of the WH performing artists and a schedule of upcoming appearances nationwide.

I discovered that I can learn to fly through Aero Academy of California and that, if I'd rather leave the flying to others, a trip to Paris, France, for the Eiffel Tower's centennial celebration is far more affordable than I'd imagined, at Air France.

During March and April, we want you to discover The Mall. We've made your shopping foray fun and affordable. Every weekend, we'll spotlight a different group of merchants. And we'll pick up the connect tab for Saturday and Sunday. That's 48 hours to explore, every week.

Step inside this issue of *Go Mall* for a schedule of events. Also inside, find information on new merchants and merchandise for St. Patrick's Day, Easter and—I shudder—April 15.

Spring is here. Stroll through The Mall. And leave your coats at home.

Electronically yours,

Cindy Morgan

Go Mall, March/April 1989
Volume 3 Number 2

Go Mall is published bimonthly by The Electronic Mall®, a service of the Advanced Media Group, CompuServe Incorporated. For more information, call 614/457-8600, or send an EasyPlex to 70007,1610. Editors: Cindy Morgan, Kirk Donnan and Kassie Rose.

GOINGS-ON: MALLWIDE

Mall directory now includes shipping and credit card information.

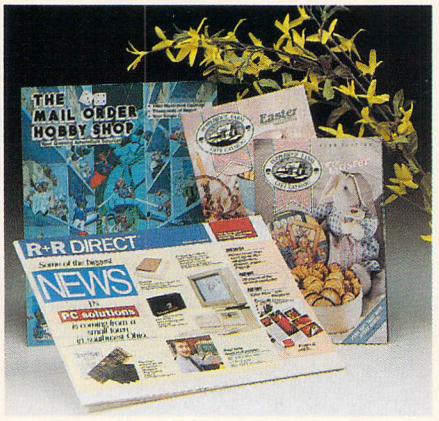
We've done some renovating at The Mall. If you haven't taken a look at the directory lately, GO MALL today. It's now searchable by merchant or department, and contains credit card information and a list of countries to which you can ship merchandise. There's an online abbreviation key for easy use, too.

Here's a sample listing:

Ivory Cache:
Alaskan jewelry, ivory, gold, gifts
VI/MC/AM/DIS US/CD/JP/OT

Legend

VI	= VISA®	US	= United States
MC	= MasterCard®	CD	= Canada
AM	= American Express®	JP	= Japan
DIS	= Discover®	OT	= Other Territories



Spring catalogs available.

Many spring catalogs are yours for the asking at select Mall stores. Brooks Brothers, for example, offers its spring fashion collection via catalog (GO BR).

Pepperidge Farm's catalog is overflowing with Easter baskets, cookies and candies (GO PF). Get a jump on the barbecue season with Char-Broil Grill Outlet's catalog of grills and outdoor culinary accessories (GO CO).

Electronics buffs: order The Heath Co.'s free catalog for the latest in kit building (GO HTH).

CDA Computer Sales (GO CDA) has a new catalog jam-packed with computer hardware and supplies.

And TSR Games Shoppe's (GO TSR) all-new 1989 catalog is full of games and gaming accessories.

For a complete listing of catalogs offered online, simply visit The Mall's Catalog of Catalogs. GO MALL and select "Mall Headlines and Happenings."

ELECTRONIC LETTERBOX

From a faraway friend.

Dear Direct Micro:

Thank you for such outstanding service. I ordered disks from you on March 24 and received them April 3. On Guam, that kind of service is just unheard of.

Vic K.
U.S. Military, Guam

Spend only what you must.

Dear Autoquot-R:

Thank you very much for your service. I saved $500 on a new car deal right off of the top, and will save another $200 to $300 when the car comes in. If I hadn't accessed an Autoquot-R readout, I would never have known what I could save, and probably would not have asked for a credit.

Your online service is the only way to know what you *must* spend on a car.

Again, thanks.

Lawrence O.
Atlanta, GA

Positive first purchase.

Dear Mall Manager:

Just a note to thank you for making Discovery Artists available through CompuServe. I recently purchased the "Rock Classics, Vol. 2" compact disc and am totally pleased with the high-quality product they've produced.

This is the first "electronic" purchase I've ever made; I'll definitely consider making more.

Again, thank you.

Louis S.
Revere, Mass.

Eight weekends of free connect

Get to know The Mall, for free.

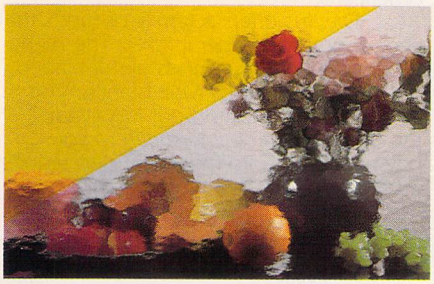
This March and April we want you to get to know The Mall, store by store. Every weekend for eight weeks, we'll pick up the connect tab at a different group of stores. Look through every featured store at your leisure.

There'll be no connect fees from 12:01 a.m., Saturday, until 11:59 p.m., Sunday, each weekend.

Here's a preview of the special events coming your way:

- ***March 11 and 12. The computer connection.***

Shop for free at more than a dozen stores, including Software Discounters of America, The Small Computer Book Club, Direct Micro and Marymac Industries.



- ***March 18 and 19. Online food and flower faire.***

Shop for free at leading gourmet retailers, such as Pepperidge Farm and Godiva Chocolates. Visit specialty shops like Coffee, Anyone??? and Indian River Citrus. Order Easter flowers from Walter Knoll Florist or Simon David.

What the heck is "free connect"?

When you read about a "free connect" weekend in *Go Mall*, you know you can browse through participating merchants' databases that particular weekend without paying standard CompuServe rates. In other words, you pay nothing while you explore a Mall store that's currently offering free connect. Period. (All applicable communications surcharges, though, do remain in effect.)

Who says you can't get something for nothing?

- ***March 25 and 26. Electronic playground for kids, pets.***

Bring the whole family to The Mall this Easter weekend. Wander through stores such as Hobby Center Toys, TSR Games Shoppe, PetWorks and New York Kennel Club. Plus, take part in The Mall's First Annual Online Easter Egg Hunt.

- ***April 1 and 2. Money matters.***

April 15 is just around the corner. Now's the time to check out investment opportunities at The Mall. Among the stores spotlighted are Dreyfus Corp., Halvorson Research Associates, Max Ule Discount Brokerage, Investment Software and H&R Block.

- ***April 8 and 9. Online air and auto show.***

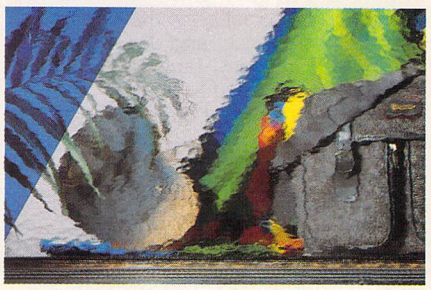
Price a Porsche at AutoVision or a Cherokee Piper at Aero Academy of California. Stroll the online lots of Buick and Ford. Get the low-down on car prices at AutoQuot-R.

- ***April 15 and 16. Spring and summer fashion show.***

Plan your summer wardrobe at Brooks Brothers and Apparel Concepts. Request free catalogs, too.

- ***April 22 and 23. Books and culture.***

Window shop at The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Plan a night on the town at Tele-Charge. Pick up best sellers and classics at Ballantine Books and Penguin Books.



- ***April 29 and 30. Travel and leisure.***

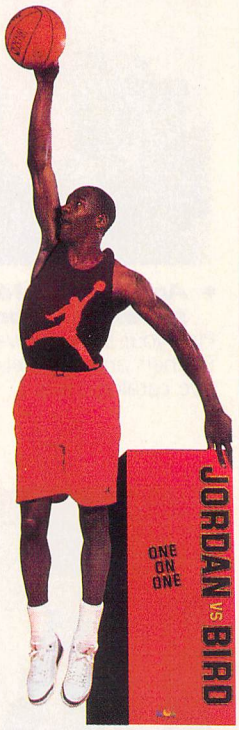
Plan a trip to Florida at Bargain Holidays. Book a resort condominium in the Caribbean at Endless Vacation Travel. Prepare for backyard barbecuing at Char-Broil Grill Outlet, or a summer pool party at Rin Robyn Pool 'N Patio. Join a record, CD or video club. Take your time; remember, the connect is free.

For a complete schedule of free shopping and online events, GO MALL.

Win a 6-foot replica of Michael Jordan at Computer Express.

Beginning March 1 at Computer Express, all shoppers who purchase Electronic Arts' *Jordan vs. Bird* will receive a free Michael Jordan poster. Their names will be added to a pool of names ... one of which will be chosen to win a 6-foot, free-standing Michael Jordan cutout.

Jordan vs. Bird is only one of many new software packages featured at Computer Express. For details on the promotion and to browse Computer Express's online catalog, GO CE.



On-screen automotive showrooms: Ford and Buick.

In the market for a new car? Visit the online showrooms of Ford Motor Co. (GO FMC) and Buick Magazine (GO BU).

Ford offers information and merchandise.

At Ford Motor Co., in addition to finding the full product lineup for 1989, you'll have access to Ford News and Warranty Information (special purchase programs, customer assistance) and a monthly Feature Vehicle (recently, Taurus SHO and Car-of-the-Year T-Bird Super Coupe).

Also online is a dealer locator that is searchable by city and ZIP code, and an online catalog shop of Ford merchandise. To visit Ford, GO FMC.

Online enhancements can determine the right Buick for you.

Buick Magazine also showcases its complete 1989 line ... online. Check out the Car of the Month. Take advantage of the Size/Type selector to determine the vehicle that best suits you.

Request any or all of Buick's brochures, or order your free copy of its complete car catalog. Buick's online service center features information on where to turn for service problems, how to order owner or service manuals, where to search for older parts, and clubs for Buick Collectors. To discover the Buick difference, GO BU.

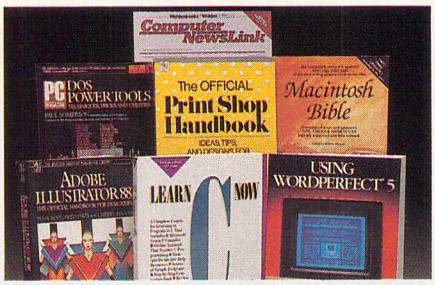
Monthly specials, free shopping at PanSon Electronics.

PanSon Electronics features a new selection of highly discounted Super Specials every month at The Mall. Among them are automotive and CB accessories, computer accessories, audio and video products, tools and electronics.

Check in each month. The Super Specials are located off of PanSon's main menu.

To top it off, PanSon will pick up the connect tab during the first Saturday and Sunday of each month. Shop at your leisure on Saturday, March 4, and Sunday, March 5, and again, Saturday, April 1, and Sunday, April 2.

To shop PanSon, GO PS.



Page through Walden Computer Books, and leave your wallet at home.

Walden Computer Books has restocked its shelves with hundreds of new computer-related titles, from just-published to new editions of old favorites.

Order any title online, and Walden Computer Books will send you a free copy of *Computer Newslink*, a mini-magazine covering the computer industry.

Featured sections of its Mall store include General Interest, Computer Specific Hardware, Spreadsheets, Word Processing and Desktop Publishing, Telecommunications and Advanced Applications. Among the titles recommended are *PC Magazine's DOS PowerTools; Using WordPerfect 5; The Macintosh 5; The Macintosh Bible, 2nd Ed.; Running MS-DOS, 4th Ed.*; and *Official Printshop Hardbook.*

Come to an open house: three weekends of free connect.

Come to any or all of three open house weekends. You'll pay no connect fees while shopping at Walden Computer Books on the following days: March 18 and 19; and April 1, 2, 22, and 23. To shop Walden Computer Books, GO WB.

H&R BLOCK®

THE INCOME TAX PEOPLE

Make April 15 less taxing at H&R Block's online tax center.

Visit the Mall branch of H&R Block this year for tax tips and tax news, including all the latest on H&R Block's new Rapid Refund program.

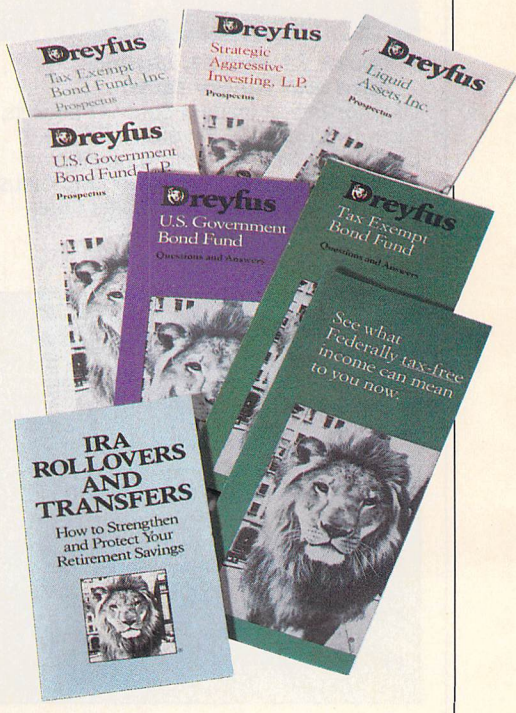
At the Block office, you'll find information on free record-keeping books, tax news and online tax tips. Among the topics covered in tax tips are deductible taxes; record-keeping; rental losses; crop sales and loans; capital gains; amended returns; itemizing deductions, dividends and interest; and home mortage interest. A few minutes here could save you literally hundreds of dollars.

For free, up-to-the-minute tax information, GO HRB.

Tax-free income funds at Dreyfus Corp.

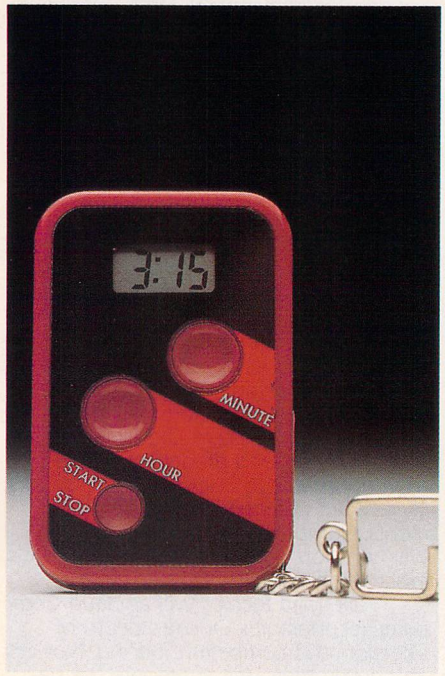
Under tax reform, tax-exempt bonds and mutual funds are among the few remaining sources of tax-free income available to Americans.

Dreyfus offers a family of funds that are exempt from federal taxes. The many advantages of these funds are described online at the Dreyfus Mall branch. Visit Dreyfus today and find out just what tax-exempt income can mean to you now. For more information and to request a free, no-obligation prospectus, GO DR.



Designer-style watches.
Rolex-, Movado-, Gucci-, art deco- and Raymond Weil-style watches for both men and women. From Executive Depot. GO ED

March Only **15% OFF**

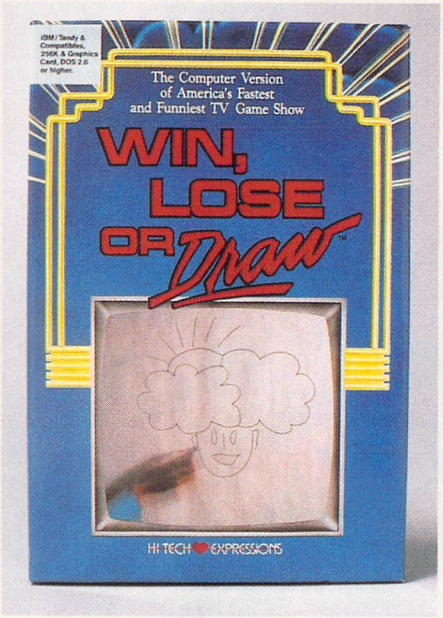


25 percent off all electronics.
Featured products include a parking meter key chain, a Sensorbeam keyfinder, a "Don't Eat" alarm and an Auto SunCharger. From LifeSpan. GO LS

March Only **25% OFF**

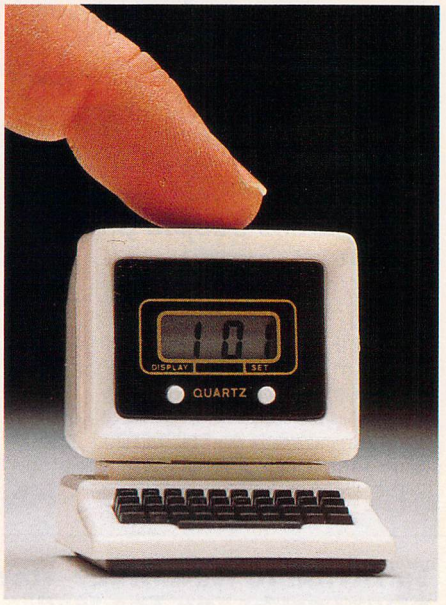
Save 10 percent on honey tangerines.
These honey-sweet tangerines are simply the best money can buy. Save 10 percent on all orders, March only: quarter, half and full bushels From Florida Fruit Shippers. GO FFS

March Only **10% OFF**



$10 or less.
Win, Lose, or Draw for the Apple, C64 and IBM. Only $9.88. From Software Discounters of America. GO SDA

Only **$9.88**



Tick, Tock: the computer clock.
Only $5.95. From Some Things Special. GO SP

Only **$5.95**

Standard stamps.
Personalized with one, two, three or four lines. Fast, one-week service. From Executive Stamper. GO EX

Less Than **$10**

An end to air guitar.
Casio PG380 Professional MIDI Guitar. From Music Alley Online. GO MAO

List price: $1,500 **$1,125**

Get the message.
AT&T Answering System 1310. High-quality answering machine with remote access from any Touch-Tone phone. Cellular and electronic phone compatible. From Competitive Electronics and Appliances. GO CEA

List price: $110 **$87**

Find games people play at Games Galore.

Solve a murder. Travel Europe. Plan a tryst. At new merchant Games Galore, you'll find a wide variety of games. Games that challenge. Games that teach. Games to test your memory.

Games Galore's online catalog features children's games, family games, games for couples, adult games, strategy games, learning games, logic games ... and games for one.

For an evening of entertainment with friends, consider one of three *How to Host a Murder* games. Select *The Last Train from Paris, The Watersdown Affair* or *The Grapes of Frath*. For family fun, try *Pictionary Second Edition*. And for a tête-à-tête for two, select the seductive *Enchanted Evening*.

Children's diversions include *Guess My Name*, from Ravensburger; and for fans of the prehistoric, *Dinosaurs and Things* and *Paleo Pals*. To challenge teens and up, there's *Inkblotz*, a game that uses inkblots in a fun, whimsical way to reveal intellect, personality and psychological state. For those solitary times, try *Tangram* from Ravensburg.

Page through the online game list. Order a free copy of Games Galore's print catalog. For the best in the games people play, GO GG.

Games Galore's grand-opening, free-connect weekend: March 11 and 12.

Subscribe to *Newsweek*—the award-winning newsweekly—on The Mall.

Sex in the age of AIDS. Alcohol and the family. Stress on the job. The greenhouse effect. These and others are the issues of the '80s. *Newsweek* had them covered.

Gorbachev, Tom Clancy, Dan Quayle and Roger Rabbit. All graced the cover of *Newsweek* in 1988. From "The Search for Adam and Eve" to "The '80s Are Over," *Newsweek* covered it.

Now, you can subscribe to the magazine that has won more National Magazine Awards than any other newsweekly online at The Mall. You'll enjoy substantial savings off of newstand prices, receive a free gift with your new order and, best of all, be in the know. Have the latest in news—foreign affairs or domestic trends—delivered directly to your door.

Award-winning columnists such as Jane Bryant Quinn and George F. Will make you look at issues from new perspectives. Top-notch reporting from around the world broaden your scope of reality.

Check out *Newsweek* at The Mall. "*Newsweek* Readers Know..." features news briefs from recent issues. "Special Reports" gives you the opportunity to order, free of charge, special supplements such as "Business Technology." And "Your Turn" lets you send a message electronically to *Newsweek*.

To subscribe to *Newsweek*, GO NW.

Newsweek's grand-opening, free-connect weekend: March 25 and 26.

Get customized systems and technical support from Computer Technologies Online.

From AST to Zenith. From hardware to software. Computer Technologies Online Inc. has a spectrum of computing products. Pay a visit online, and order a copy of the Electronic Catalog on disk.

It's packed with more than 1,000 products, and costs only $9.95, refunded with your first purchase. The catalog is downloadable from Computer Technologies Online's national bulletin board, as are catalog updates (updates are free). Instructions and the phone number are listed online.

Start with the basics: personal computers from Osicom, Maxar, Wyse, Toshiba and others. You'll also find laptops from NEC, Zenith and others. Build your system from there.

Order a hard drive, from 10MB to 1 gigabyte. Pick up a modem in 1200, 2400 or 9600 baud. Computer Technologies Online carries a complete line of US Robotics modems, plus those from many other leading manufacturers. Consider a hard card from Western Digital. Select from all makes and models of printers, from dot matrix to laser jet.

After determining your requirements, Computer Technologies Online will help you put together a system that's exactly right for you.

Die-hard techies will applaud Computer Technologies Online's depth of selection and competitive pricing. Novices and newcomers will appreciate the patient, personal service. All products are backed by a complete guarantee and toll-free technical support.

For an abundance of computer hardware, software and peripherals, GO CTO.

Computer Technologies Online's grand-opening, free-connect weekend: March 18 and 19.

Yours for the picking: Apple and Macintosh products at Programs Plus.

Programs Plus is your source for software and peripherals for the Apple—including the IIe, IIc, IIgs, and Apple 2—and the Mac. A fresh selection of monthly picks and specials, at discounted prices, is showcased every month.

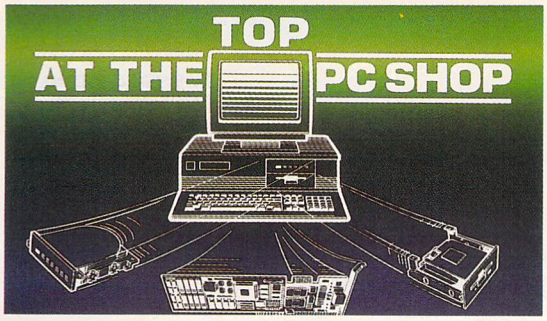
Among the items you might find featured are hard drives, modems, floppy drives, joysticks, mice, surge suppressors and disk cases.

The folks at Programs Plus, specialists in Apple and Mac systems for more than five years, bring you the pick of the crop in terms of software and peripherals. Featured products include the *Cider D2* 20MB hardcard by First Class Peripherals, and the *Apple DB Master Professional*, by Stonedge Technology.

More than 1,500 software packages, ranging from entertainment to utilities packages, can be ordered online. Recommended programs include *Sensible Grammar* by Sensible Software for the Mac and *Rags to Riches* by Chang Labs.

Long-time advertisers in publications such as *Macworld, Mac User, A+* and *Incider*, Programs Plus proudly opens its doors online. GO PP

Programs Plus grand-opening, free-connect weekend: March 25 and 26.



Your IBM compatible specialist: At The Top P.C. Shop.

Whatever your price range or requirements, the At The Top P.C. Shop has you covered. Specialists in IBM compatibles, this new Mall merchant carries a spectrum of products—from printers and peripherals to completely configured systems.

The experts at At The Top have picked the best of the lot in three price ranges: the top-of-the-line, mid-end and low-end. No matter what your budget, you know you're getting the best value on the market for your money.

Featured products include personal computers from Samsung and AST, and portables from Toshiba and NEC; utilities software such as *Excel*, *Lotus* and *Side Kick*; modems and hard disks for upgrading your current system; and laser printers from NEC and Panasonic. More than 50 products will appear online every month.

Ready, set, go.

At The Top P.C. Shop also specializes in configuring complete systems, designed to meet your specific needs. Each system is designed, completely configured, low-level formatted and tested before it goes out the door. Requests for special configurations are welcome.

Finally, be sure to listen in on At The Top's "Inside Grapevine." This monthly online newsletter is bursting with news on new products and industry gossip.

To shop At The Top P.C. Shop, where every item is fully tested before it goes out the door, GO TPC.

At The Top P.C. Shop's grand-opening, free-connect weekend: March 18 and 19.

Affordable data communications products from The Online Store.

The Online Store, a pioneer in the marketing of data communications products, a price leader in communications products and a long-time advertiser in *Online Today*, opens its online doors.

Stop in for modems, data communications, bulletin boards and more, at low prices.

A leading dealer in US Robotics products in the nation, The Online Store features a 2400-baud modem at competitive prices.

Also available: modems from Multitech, Microcom and Telebit. For the budget-minded, there's even a half-card 2400-baud modem for IBM PCs and compatibles priced under $100! More than 200 products are available.

Some exceptional values: The Voice Mail Card, a complete telephone answering system, and two proprietary bulletin board packages. Select TDBS's 16-line community oriented bulletin board system. Or opt for the DLX multiline turnkey package, a socially oriented bulletin board that's changing the way people meet and greet one another.

With more than five years of experience in the industry, The Online Store welcomes your inquiries. Consult them via EasyPlex about your communications needs.

To shop The Online Store, GO OS.

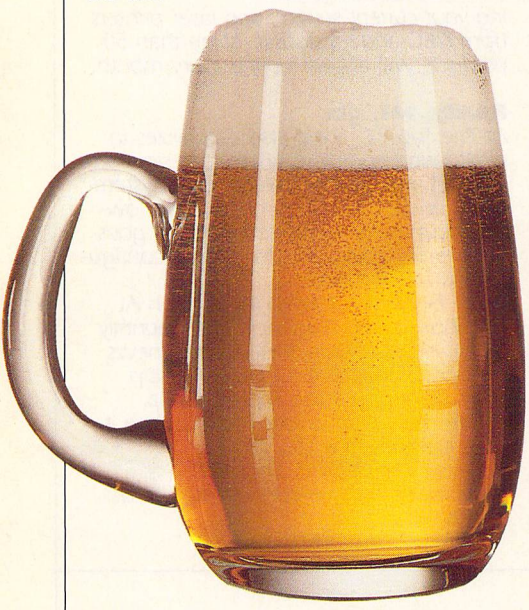
The Online Store's grand-opening, free-connect weekend: March 25 and 26.

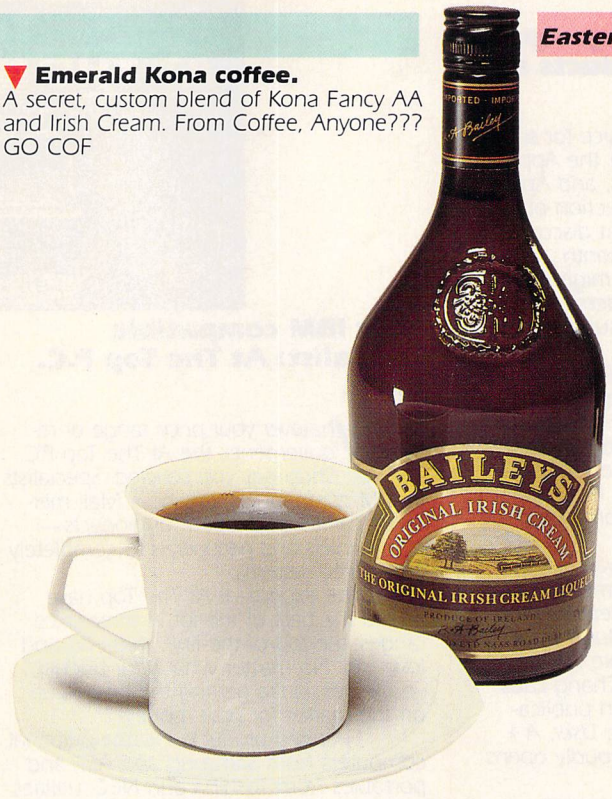
For smiling Irish eyes.

Rolling in clover.
Grow your own four-leaf clovers from seven oxalis bulbs in a green pot. From Williams & Eeden Garden Center. GO WE

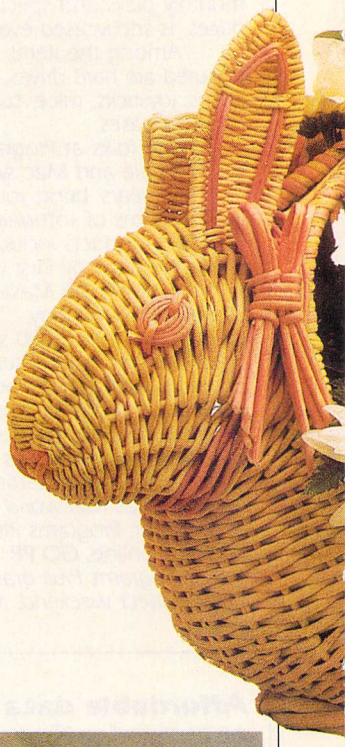
▼ Emerald Kona coffee.
A secret, custom blend of Kona Fancy AA and Irish Cream. From Coffee, Anyone??? GO COF

▼ A toast from Toscany.
Toscany beer mugs. From Simon David. GO SIM





Easter feasts and beasts.



▼ Easter offerings.
Including the Buttoneyed Bunnies cookie tin, Easter Pail of cookies and Printemps Picnic. From Pepperidge Farm. GO PF

▲ **Tender lamb for grilling, broiling.**
Spring lamb chops. From Simon David. GO SIM

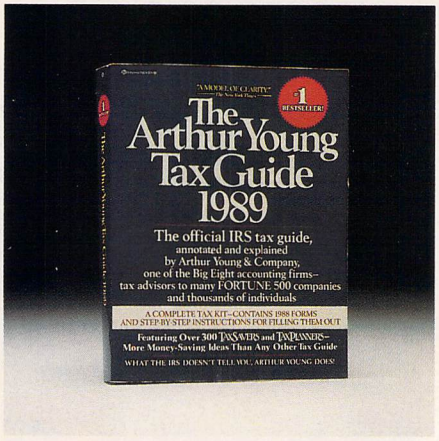
◀ **"There's a hare on my stoop!"**
FTD Bunny Basket Bouquet and Some Bunny Loves You. Send Easter greetings to family and friends. From Walter Knoll Florist. GO WK

Spring things.

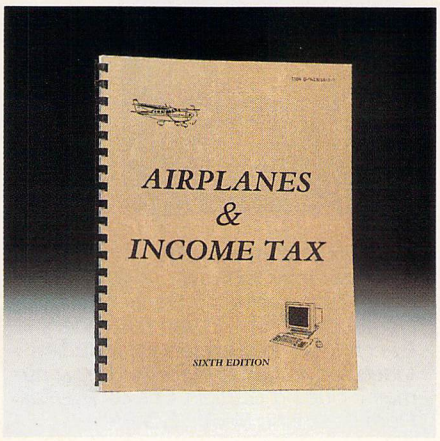
Affordable spring cleaning tools.
Panasonic upright and canister vacuums at discount prices, from Competitive Electronics and Appliances. GO CEA

A bouquet for the bath.
Violet, lavender and lily of the valley bath products. Also, glycerine soaps, bath gels, oils and cubes. From Crabtree & Evelyn. GO CR

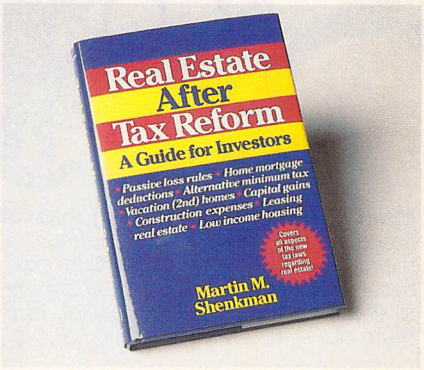
Tax fighters.



The Arthur Young Tax Guide 1989.
The official IRS tax guide, annotated and explained by Arthur Young & Co. Featuring more than 300 tax savers and tax planners—more money-saving ideas than any other tax guide. From Ballantine Books. GO BAL



Airplanes & Income Tax, 6th Edition.
Up-to-date information on the financial consequences of owning an airplane. Tax incentives, leasebacks, break-even formulas and more. From Aero Academy of California. GO AC



Real Estate After Tax Reform: Guide for Investors.
From John Wiley & Sons. GO JW

A program for partners.
Howardsoft Tax Preparer: Partnerships. For individuals or partners. Includes all forms. Also for individuals: *Personal Tax Filer* and *PC/TaxCut* by Best Programs. From Investment Software. GO IS

***Turbo Tax* for the IBM.**
The definitive tax program, now available for 41 states. From Computer Express. GO CE

WINDOWS ON THE MALL

ART, MUSIC & VIDEO

World's Fair, 50 years ago.
The World of Tomorrow. A retrospective of the 1939 New York World's Fair. From The Metropolitan Museum of Art. GO MMA

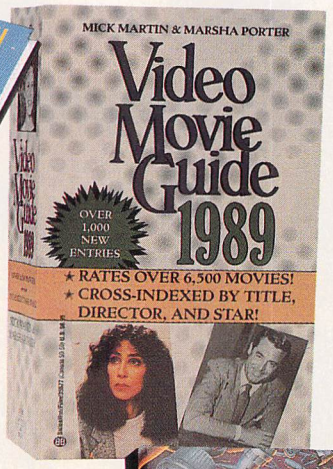
Shake, rattle and roll for less.
Guitars, synthesizers, amps, keyboards and more from leading manufacturers at low, low discount prices. From Music Alley Online. GO MAO

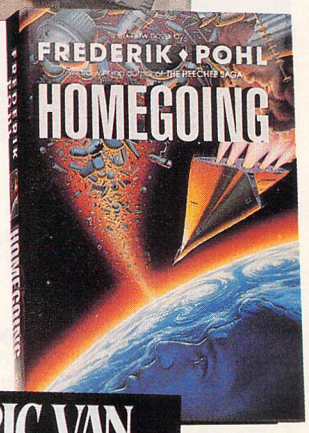
Meet the Met's (unofficial) mascot.
Based on an Egyptian hippopotamus sculpture (about 1900 B.C.), William has become the Museum's unofficial mascot. Silver-plated, from The Metropolitan Museum of Art. GO MMA

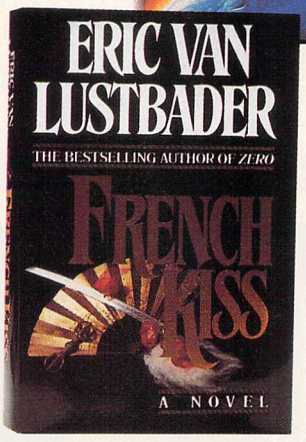
AUTO

Drive your dream car—for less.
Buy or lease the automobile of your dreams. Compare, select, finance and, if you choose, take delivery of the make and model of your choice, all from the convenience of your easy chair. You can save literally thousands of dollars. Now available in all 50 states. From AutoVision. GO AV

BOOKS/PERIODICALS

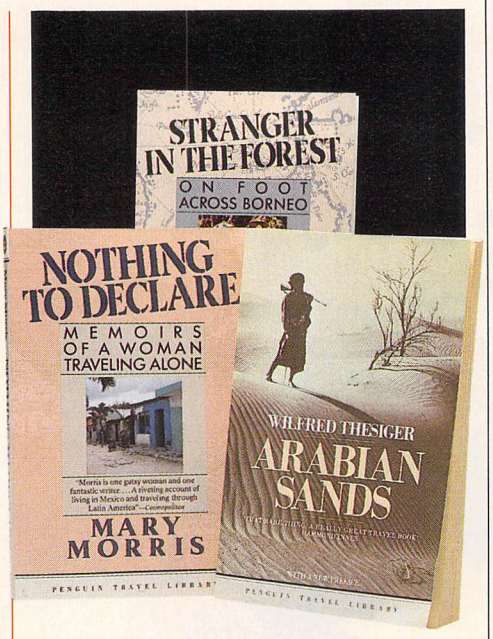






Hot off the press: the best of new fiction.
New fiction, including Frederik Pohl's *Homegoing* and Eric Van Lustbader's *French Kiss.* New references, including *Video Movie Guide 1989.* And new humor, including *Garfield Chews The Fat.* From Ballantine Books. GO BAL

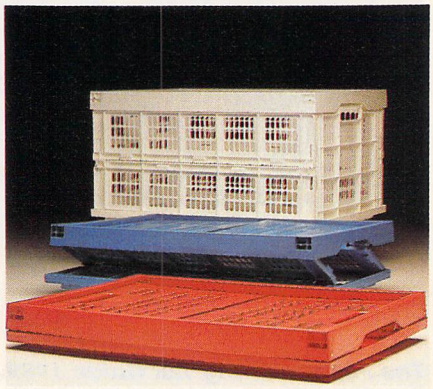
Trade secrets.
Subscribe online to a variety of trade journals, including *Chemical Week, Pet Dealer, Data Communication,* and *Advertising Age.* From American Magazine Subscriptions. GO AS



Texts for armchair travelers.
The Penguin Travel library takes you around the world. Featured volumes include: *Stranger In The Forest: On Foot Across Borneo, Nothing To Declare: Memoirs of a Woman Traveling Alone, Writings From Japan* and *Arabian Sands.* From Penguin Books. GO PB

BUSINESS & FINANCE

A database digest of news publications.
Read all about it with NewsNet, the world's largest database of business newsletters. More than 300 newsletters and 10 major wire services covering more than 30 industries, including aerospace, computers, international affairs, taxation and telecommunications. Take a free tour, then sign up online. From NewsNet. GO NN



Colorful, affordable filing system.
File it in the Rubbermaid Quick Crate Filing/Storage System. Plastic crates with built-in handles for portability. From The Stationery Center. GO SC

CLUBS & MEMBERSHIPS

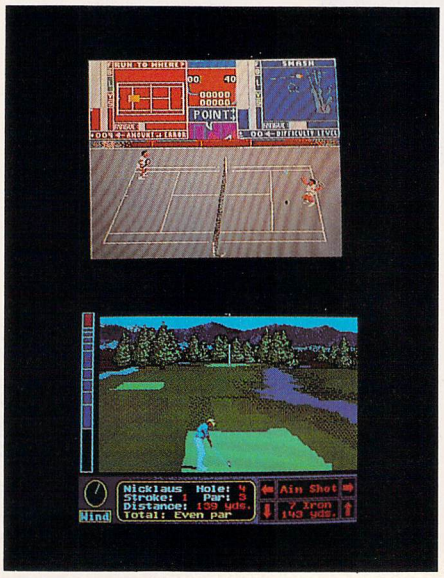
Search this video club by title or artist.
Join online and select your introductory videos from hundreds of selections. Classic films, new releases, music videos and more. Search by title or by artist for easy selection. From The Video Club. GO VC

COMPUTING

Free with purchase: this program turns your computer into an interactive typing tutor.
With your purchase of any ATI Training program, receive a free copy of ATI's *Typing Tutor*, a powerful program that turns your computer into an interactive typing instructor. A $49.95 value, it's yours free with purchase of any ATI training program listed in the ATI Mall store. From American Training International. GO ATI

Insure your prized possession.
Your computer is a major investment. Now you can insure it against fire and theft, online, at Safeware. Complete the application online. If, for any reason, you are not satisfied with your Computer owner's coverage, Safeware will give you a full refund within 10 days after you receive the policy. From Safeware Insurance. GO SAF

A Mac attack.
The source for Macintosh products. Systems offered include Macintosh Plus Entry System, Macintosh SE Super System, Macintosh II/40 Graphic System. Also, printers, modems, hardcards and more. Plus a free 56-page color catalog. From CDA Computer Sales. GO CDA



Spring sporting events for your screen.
Jack Nicklaus Golf for the IBM and C64, and *Serve & Volley Tennis* for the IBM, C64 and Apple IIgs, both by Accolade. From Software Discounters of America. GO SDA

1st Run Computer pledges the best.
The ultimate in optical scanning services, disk and tape conversion services, database management services, conversion hardware and much more. Request your free color brochure. From 1st Run Computer Services. GO FR

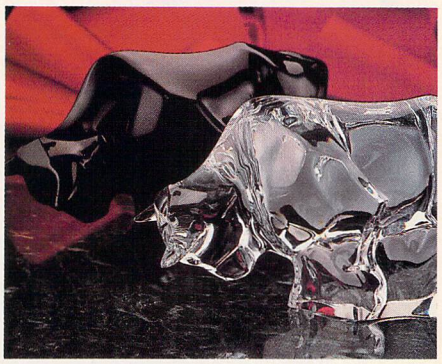
GIFTS & COLLECTIBLES

A lobster in every pot.
A gift of true imagination: a Lobster Lease and a fuzzy lobster. Includes a hand-personalized trap lease document and a fuzzy lobster for starters. Next come seasonal progress reports and a booklet of recipes to whet the appetitite. And finally the feast: at least six live lobsters! From Rent Mother Nature. GO RM

The art of correspondence.
Letter opener and magnifier. The handles reproduce an ivory handle from a 17th century south German hunting knife. Individual or set. From The Metropolitan Museum of Art. GO MMA

A portable lawn game.
The Official Ringball Set. A portable game of skill that combines the precision of horseshoes and bocce ball with the defensive strategies of shuffleboard or croquet. From Hammacher Schlemmer. GO HS

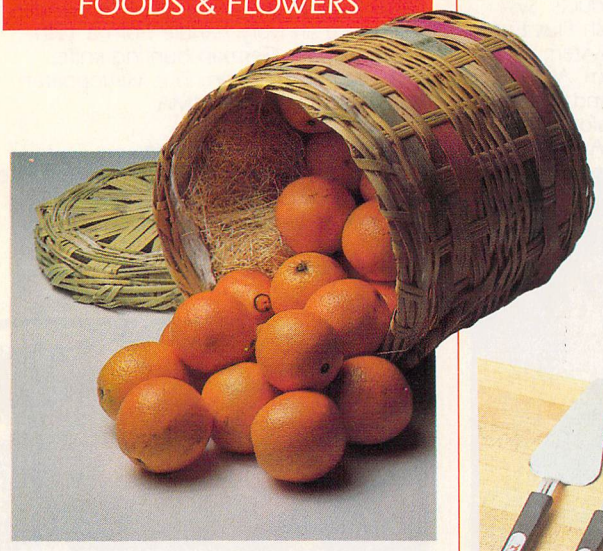
Bulls and bears of opulence.
Orrefor crystal, from Bloomingdale's. GO BL



Alaskan artifacts.
Handmade in our 49th state. A standing ivory sea otter, scrim shaw eagle, arctic loon and more. From Ivory Cache. GO IV

WINDOWS ON THE MALL

FOODS & FLOWERS



Easter baskets, Florida style.
Order your Easter basket from Florida Fruit Shippers. Two popular gift baskets are featured: the wicker champagne hamper and the woven tropical palm basket. Each is filled with the finest Florida fruit and comes with free Easter gift-wrap. From Florida Fruit Shippers. GO FFS

Easter baskets, Texas style.
Custom made Easter baskets from the Lone Star State's leading gourmet and specialty shop. From Simon David. GO SIM

French bowl frosted with tulips, filled with flowers.
French tulip bowl bouquet. Crystal-clear French glass bowl accented by a frosted tulip design and filled with springtime flowers. From Walter Knoll Florist. GO WK

Culinary accessories for the cook.
Cheese slicers, cake servers, oyster/clam knives, pizza cutters, spaghetti ladles, garlic presses and more. From Executive Depot. GO ED

Necessities for spring planting.
An array of top-of-the-line gardening tools, including spades, edging tools, a hand-forged bulb planter, trowels and pruning sheers. Plus, leather gardening gloves. From Williams & Eeden Garden Center. GO WE

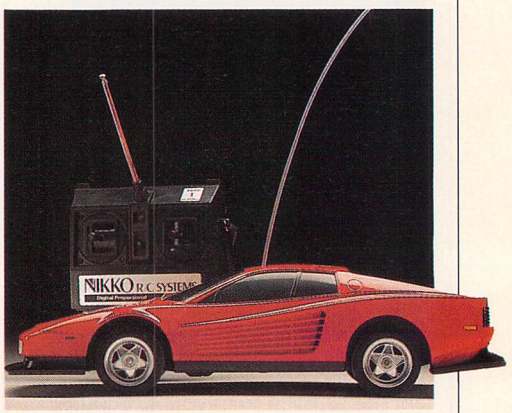
HEALTH & BEAUTY

Gourmet foods that are good for you.
Sugarless products, including conserves, chutneys and barbecue sauces—sweetened with cider and dried apples from Kozolowski Farms. Award-winning alcohol-free wines from Winsor Vineyards. Much more. From LifeSpan. GO LS

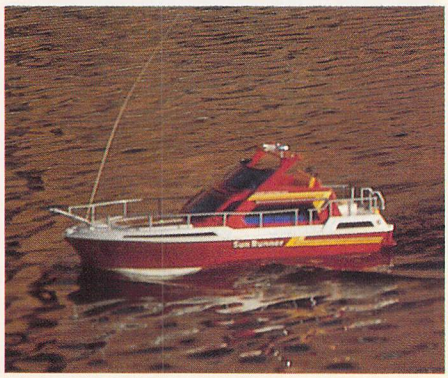
Vita Mix 3600: a miracle worker.
A miracle kitchen appliance that does most everything. Enjoy low-fat, low-sugar, low-calorie meals that taste as if they're not. Plus, receive a free 128-page gourmet cookbook filled with nutritious, delicious recipes with purchase. From General Nutrition Center. GO GN

HOBBIES, TOYS & PETS

Buy or sell aircraft online at Aero Academy.
Recent planes offered include a 1979 Cessna 172, a 1978 Cessna 152, a 1968 Piper Cherokee 180 and a 1979 Piper Warrior. Air hours, specs and prices are all listed online. From Aero Academy of California. GO AC



Radio control sport vehicles.
Choose either the Ferrari Testarossa with working headlights (and precision road handling at up to 15 MPH!), or the Caribic Star, a yacht for your bathtub. From Hobby Center Toys. GO HC



WINDOWS ON THE MALL

Rid pet food of unpleasant odors.
Introducing Pets Smellfree, a revolutionary new pet food complement that completely stops all unpleasant odors. From The New York Kennel Club. GO KC

A room for Rover.
Now, take your pets with you when you travel. Traveling With Your Pets' newly expanded database now lists hundreds of hotels and motels across the United States where your dogs and cats are welcome. From Traveling With Your Pets. GO TP

Easy entry—or exit—for your pet.
Pet-Eze pet doors. Energy-conserving pet doors for walls and wood doors, incorporating stylish design features. Lets your cat or dog come and go. Available in nine sizes ... to fit your pet! From Pet Works. GO PW

THE MEN'S SHOP

Savings on shirts.
Arrow, Gant, Izod, and their own pinpoint Oxford shirts, all at surprisingly low prices. Your satisfaction guaranteed. From Apparel Concepts for Men. GO APC

A certificate of timeless taste.
A gift that's always welcome, the Brooks Brothers gift certificate. From Brooks Brothers. GO BR

THE WOMEN'S SHOP

Bridal bracelets.
Wedding day bracelets of semiprecious stones or genuine pearls, from Anne Marie Schaffer. GO GR

MERCHANDISE/ELECTRONICS

Fix it, don't ditch it.
Order parts and accessories for your Hitachi, JVC, GE, Optonica, Panasonic, Quasar, Sony, RCA, Technics and Sharp products online. All items are original factory parts and accessories, not replacements or substitutes. Search by make or model number. From PanSon Electronics. GO PS

Now take ice cream on a picnic.
The Hot/Cold Thermoelectric Food Carrier. Using thermoelectric module technology originally developed by NASA, this compact carrier can be set to maintain a temperature below 32 degrees F and up to 150 degrees F. From Hammacher Schlemmer. GO HS

TRAVEL & VACATIONS

Reserve seats online to "Lettuce and Lovage."
The one and only Maggie Smith, starring in "Lettuce and Lovage," the smash comedy by Peter Schaffer, author of "Amadeus" and "Equus." New York performances begin March 21. Online ticket ordering! From Tele-Charge. GO TC

Heavenly holidays, here on earth.
Resort condominium rentals with kitchens, separate bedrooms and lots of extras—like hot tubs and microwaves. Vacation in the United States, Hawaii, Mexico or the Caribbean. From Endless Vacation Travel. GO EV

Monte Carlo magnifique.
A fabulous spa holiday at the Loew's Monte Carlo. Departures from seven US gateway cities. Package includes round-trip airfare, one-week hotel accommodations at the Loew's, unlimited use of the hotel's health spa and fitness center, a car for the week, and lots more. (Valid through March 25, 1989.) From Air France. GO AF

Announcing The Mall's First Annual Easter Egg Hunt.

We've hidden 24 electronic Easter eggs somewhere on The Mall. Bring the entire family and join in on the fun!

Beginning Palm Sunday, March 19, through Easter Sunday, March 26, search The Mall to uncover the hidden eggs. Mark your calendar now!

Each egg has a secret, three-digit number code. Write down that code and keep looking. Find as many eggs as you can. Remember, be sure to record each secret code. Then fill out the official electronic entry form.

Ten grand prizes, plus a prize for all who enter.

The 10 CompuServe kids who find the most eggs will win a grand-prize package: a giant chocolate Easter egg for the child and a $5 usage credit for his or her parents. Best of all, everyone who enters will win a special surprise gift.

For complete rules and regulations, GO MALL and select "Mall Headlines and Happenings."

Let the Easter eggs roll!

Simon David's 100th Anniversary Sweepstakes.

Win a gourmet gift basket packed with delectables from Simon David's leading gourmet specialty shop, now starting its second century.

In celebration of the store's 100th anniversary, one lucky shopper will find the prize on his or her doorstep, compliments of Simon David. To be eligible for the drawing, simply make a purchase or request a free catalog at Simon David anytime between March 1 and April 30. The winner will be chosen at random from all valid user IDs.

To view the grand-prize basket, and for your chance to win, visit Simon David. GO SIM

Win a year of gourmet coffees.

To celebrate its new look and new name, Coffee, Anyone???® (formerly Coffee Emporium) is raffling off a one-year membership in its Coffee-of-the-Month Club.

One lucky shopper, selected at random from all who make an online purchase between March 1 and April 30, will be sipping in style for one year, compliments of proprietors Norm and Rosemary Belssner. Stop by for details! GO COF

Remember: other merchants sponsor monthly contests.

Don't forget that many merchants feature new online contests every month. Test your stage savvy at Tele-Charge (GO TC). Take a trip down memory lane with Buick Magazine's Buick Heritage Quiz (GO BU). Win the cake of your choice if you're a birthday boy or girl at Desserts Direct (GO DS).

Some prizes are valuable; others are simply scrumptious. So, play today, and good luck!

Shopping The Mall.

Ordering from The Electronic Mall is easy. Each time you enter a Mall store, a personal order file, much like an electronic shopping cart, is opened for you. Browse a store's database, and when you see a product you would like to buy, type the letter "O" and the order will be placed in your file, similar to selecting an item from a store's shelf and placing it in your cart.

You can order directly from the product description page — there is no need to return to a store's top menu. You can order one item or a dozen. When you type "O," the system does not complete your order; it only registers your desire to make a purchase.

Checking out.

To complete your order, you must "check out." You can do this by typing CHECKOUT, the GO command of the next store you wish to visit or any command that takes you elsewhere on CompuServe. This tells the system you are ready to complete the order and presents two options.

1. Cancel your order by typing EXIT.
2. Complete your order by responding to a series of prompts for additional information.

When you have supplied the necessary information, you will receive an order summary. You now have the chance to change part or all of your order. For example, if you've ordered three books but decide you only want two of them, you can delete one book from your order. Or maybe you would like to have your order shipped to your office instead of your home. You can make that change, too.

Once you've made any changes, you again will have the chance to review your order. When you confirm the order as correct, you will receive an order confirmation number. *At this point, your order is complete.* It is sent electronically to the Mall merchant's CompuServe mailbox for processing. The order process is the same for every Mall merchant, but methods of payment and delivery may differ. If you have questions regarding your order, it is best to contact the merchant directly by using the customer service information provided within each store.

MALL DIRECTORY

ARTS, MUSIC, VIDEO

CD Compact Disc Club *
CM The Classical Music Club
DA Discovery Artists
MMA Metropolitan Museum of Art *
MAO Music Alley Online
RT Record and Tape Club *
TC Tele-Charge—Theatre tickets
VC The Video Club *
WH Windham Hill ■ *

AUTO

DU ABC Compu-Lease
AQ Autoquot-R
AV AutoVision
BU Buick Magazine ■
FMC Ford Motor Co. ■

BOOKS/PERIODICALS

AS American Magazine Subscriptions
AN Antic Software
BAL Ballantine Books
DJ Dow Jones & Company
DR Dreyfus
MH The McGraw-Hill Book Co. ■ *
MER Mercury House
NW Newsweek †
PB Penguin Books ■
BK Small Computer Book Club
TL Time-Life Books
WB Walden Computer Books ■ *
JW John Wiley & Sons ■ *

BUSINESS & FINANCE

IN Auto Write
INC Business Incorporating Guide
DJ Dow Jones & Company
HRB H&R Block
HRA Halvorson Research Associates
IS Investment Software ■
LA The Law Store
TKR Max Ule Discount Brokerage
NN NewsNet

CLUBS & MEMBERSHIPS

CM The Classical Music Club
CD Compact Disc Club *
NCW National Computer Warehouse Club
KC New York Kennel Club
RT Record and Tape Club *
SAC Shoppers Advantage
BK Small Computer Book Club
TL Time-Life Books
VC The Video Club *

COMPUTING

AN Antic Software
ATI American Training International ■ *
TPC At The Top PC Shop †
CDA CDA Computer Sales ■ *
CE Computer Express *●
CTO Computer Technologies Online †
DM Direct Micro ■ *
FWC Fort Worth Computer
IS Investment Software ■
MM Marymac Industries
MNU Menu
NCW National Computer Warehouse Club
NAR New Age Resources † *
OS Online Store †
PT Paradise Technology
PP Programs Plus †
SAF Safeware Computer Insurance ■
SDA Software Discounters of America
SP Some Things Special
WB Walden Computer Books ■ *

GIFTS & COLLECTIBLES

BL Bloomingdale's
COF Coffee, Anyone???
CT Countree Reflections
CR Crabtree & Evelyn ■ *
DS Desserts Direct ■
DD Don's Dollhouse & Miniatures ● *
ED Executive Depot ■ *
FFS Florida Fruit Shippers ■
FS Flower Stop †
GG Games Galore
GC Godiva Chocolates ■ *
IR Indian River Citrus ■ *
IV Ivory Cache ■ *
LS LifeSpan *
OL Olympic Gift Store ■ *
PF Pepperidge Farm ■ *
RM Rent Mother Nature
GR Annemarie G. Schaffer
SL Sharon Luggage and Gifts
SIM Simon David
SP Some Things Special
WK Walter Knoll Florist

GOURMET FOODS & FLOWERS

GC Godiva Chocolates ■ *
COF Coffee, Anyone???
DS Desserts Direct
ED Executive Depot ■ *
FFS Florida Fruit Shippers ■
FS Flower Stop †
IR Indian River Citrus ■ *
IV Ivory Cache ■ *
PF Pepperidge Farm ■ *
RM Rent Mother Nature
SIM Simon David
WK Walter Knoll Florist
WE Williams & Eeden Garden Center ■ *

HEALTH & BEAUTY

BL Bloomingdale's
CR Crabtree & Evelyn ■ *
EE Elite Eyewear ■ *
GN General Nutrition Corporation ■ *
HR Harris' Scent-Sations
LS LifeSpan *
NAR New Age Resources † *

HOBBIES, TOYS & PETS

AC Aero Academy
DD Don's Dollhouse & Miniatures *●
GA Games Galore †
HTH The Heath Co. ■
HC Hobby Center Toys
KC New York Kennel Club
PW Petworks
TSR TSR Games Shoppe ■ *
WE Williams & Eeden Garden Center ■ *
TP Traveling with Your Pet

THE MEN'S SHOP

APC Apparel Concepts for Men ■
BR Brooks Brothers ■ *

THE WOMEN'S SHOP

BR Brooks Brothers ■ *
HR Harris' Scent-Sations
GR Annemarie G. Schaffer

MERCHANDISE & ELECTRONICS

ARI Air-Conditioning and Refrigeration Institute
AE Ankai Electronics ■ *
CEA Competitive Electronics and Appliances
ORD CompuServe Store
HS Hammacher Schlemmer ■ *
HTH The Heath Co. ■
PS PanSon Electronics *
SAC Shoppers Advantage *

OFFICE SUPPLIES & SERVICES

TN Auto Write
DM Direct Micro ■ *
EX Executive Stamper
FR First Run Computer Services
GL Globalink
LA The Law Store
SAF Safeware Computer Insurance ■
SC Stationery Center ● *

SPORTS & LEISURE

AC Aero Academy
CO Char-Broil Grill Outlet
EE Elite Eyewear
GA Games Galore †
HS Hammacher Schlemmer ■ *
OL Olympic Gift Store ■ *
RR Rin Robyn Pool 'N Patio ■

TRAVEL & VACATIONS

AF Air France ■
BH Bargain Holidays of Florida
EV ENDLESS VACATION TRAVEL *
OAG Official Airline Guide
SL Sharon Luggage and Gifts
TP Traveling with Your Pet

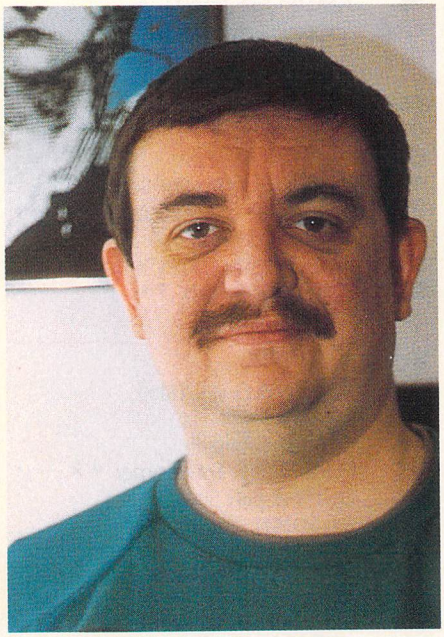
■ Offers free print catalog.
* Denotes electronic order form for use with print catalog.
● Credits cost of print catalog toward purchase.
† Denotes new merchant.

Two win grand prizes in 1988 Your Number's Up! Contest.

Congratulations to Victoria Cappello and Allan Cunningham, grand-prize winners in last fall's Your Numbers Up! contest.

Cappello, who lives in Brooklyn, N.Y., won a week's stay at the luxury resort condominium of her choice, compliments of Endless Vacation Travel. Cunningham won a PSION Organizer, a portable, hand-held computer, compliments of Paradise Technology. A consultant system engineer for Data General, Cunningham purchased his first computer from Heath Co. at The Mall several years ago.

Congratulations to both, and to the more than 200 weekly winners who took home prizes in this annual Electronic Mall event.



Tele-Charge's four-time trivia winner.

"I really look forward to the Theatre Buff Brain Buster Trivia Quiz at Tele-Charge each month," said Allen Neuner, a four-time winner in Tele-Charge's monthly contest.

"They're fun and a challenge, too. There's usually one really tough question each month that sends me deep into the recesses of my memory." A long-time theatre buff, Neuner said, "I've ordered tickets through Tele-Charge online and think this is a great service."

Commenting on The Mall, he said, "I still get a kick out of coming in and browsing through all the stores while staying in my nice, warm apartment! Friends of mine who have used it think it's just great, both in terms of selection and price. Keep up the good work!"

Congratulations, Allen!

MARCH

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Happenings

Simon David's 100th Anniversary Celebration. GO SIM

Win a 6-foot Michael Jordan at Computer Express. GO CE

Save money on Direct Micro's monthly Blockbuster Specials. GO DM

Pick up a deal at CDA Computer Sales' Inventory Clearance Sale. GO CDA

Coffee, Anyone??? Coffee-of-the-Month Contest. GO COF

Fun & Games

Tele-Charge's monthly Theatre Buff Brain Buster Quiz GO TC
March & April: An all-new contest every month!

Buick's Heritage Quiz GO BU
March & April: New contest and new prizes every month!

Dessert Direct's Birthday Cake of the Month Contest GO DS
March and April celebrants, take note!

The Mall's First Annual Electronic Easter Egg Hunt GO MALL
March 19–March 26

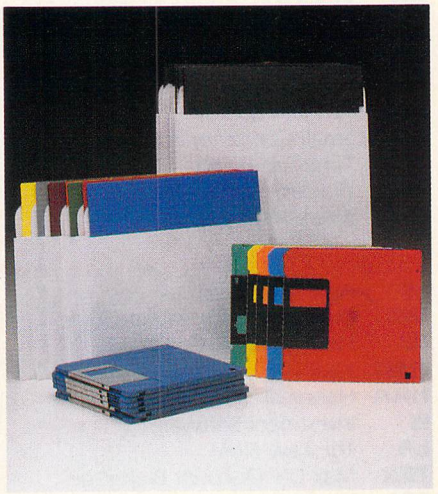
Free shopping

FLASH!!! Free shopping every weekend during March and April in "Get to Know The Mall." See the complete schedule online. In addition to "Get to Know The Mall," enjoy extra free shopping at these Mall stores during March and April:

Buick Magazine GO BU*
March free shopping: March 11, 12
April free shopping: April 8, 9

Computer Express GO CE*
March free shopping: March 11, 12

Computer Technologies Online GO CTO*
March free shopping: March 18, 19



Direct Micro GO DM*
April free shopping: April 1, 2

Florida Fruit Shippers GO FFS
March free shopping: March 11, 12

Games Galore GO GG
March free shopping: March 11, 12

***Newsweek* GO NW**
March free shopping: March 25, 26

The Online Store GO OS
March free shopping: March 25, 26

PanSon Electronics GO PS
March free shopping: March 4, 5
April free shopping: April 1, 2

Programs Plus GO PP
March free shopping: March 25, 26

At the Top P.C. Shop GO TPC
March free shopping: March 18, 19

Walden Computer Books GO WB
March free shopping: March 18, 19
April free shopping: April 1, 2, 22, 23

Branching Out

Apple Vendor Forums Grow on CompuServe

by Paul Newkirk

The immediate success and overwhelming popularity of the original Apple Vendor Forum on CompuServe called for an encore. That encore appears online in the form of the new Apple Vendor B Forum (GO APVENB), which extends the customer support and interaction power of the original Apple Vendor Forum to the following vendors: Aba Software, Altsys Corp., Jasik Designs, Microseeds Publishing, STAX, T/Maker Inc., Working Software, OLDUVAI Corp., Meta Software, Software Ventures, Hyperpress Publishing, Deneba Software, Opcode Systems and Radius Inc.

"The original forum developed from an idea that it might be easier for Apple users to find vendors and easier for these vendors to support their customers if they were located in a single place online," says Forum Administrator Neil Shapiro. This was apparently a successful idea because, from nearly the moment the first Apple Vendor Forum was filled, there was a waiting list of vendors wanting to get a spot on the forum.

Bob LeVitus, CEO of STAX!, a company that sells products for use with HyperCard, says, "One of the first things I thought of when we envisioned the company and made a business plan was to have online technical support on CompuServe. As a CompuServe junkie, I've used most of the vendors to get technical support for myself. So I was glad that CompuServe opened a second vendors' forum to make room for us."

Until the addition of the new forum, LeVitus and other vendors like him simply "lurked" in other areas of the forum to provide product information and customer support. Earl Allen of Altsys Corp., which makes FONTographer and FONTastic Plus, says, "Before, I hung out on the Mac Pro Forum, picking up anything that had to do with fonts. I also lurked in the Adobe Forum, checking out questions people might ask about bit map fonts that go with the Adobe fonts."

Rosalie Dieteman of Aba Software, whose products include Draw It Again, Sam and GraphistPaint II, says, "I've been lurking in the Macintosh forums. If somebody would say, 'I'm looking for a graphics program' or 'I'm looking for a special features program,' I'd contribute my two cents worth."

"This addition gives us a specific place where people know they can find us," says Allen. "They will know where I am guaranteed to be."

With the expansion giving them their own space, these vendors are looking forward to the many benefits and possibilities that come with an online forum. One obvious advantage to a forum is a unique rapport that can develop between a vendor and customers. Says LeVitus, "The forum will enable me to hear from people even when they don't have a problem, and allow me to talk with people interested in our products. In turn, they can ask questions and get answers straight from us.

"Other benefits concern our newsletter and press releases. We have a quarterly customer newsletter that we are thinking of putting into HyperCard format and uploading," he says. "Additionally, the forum will be the first place press releases go when we release a new product." Allen plans to "post technical notes and hints," while Dieteman says, "I'm planning to give personal attention to each question."

Another asset of having a forum is the libraries, and their potential is rarely wasted. In the different vendors' libraries there will be updates and improvements. Vendors and customers alike can post items to be downloaded. For example, STAX! offers a product called STAX!: Sound Effects Studio, which comes with 140 professionally recorded sounds and a set of tools for installation and removal.

Says LeVitus, "If I get some new sound effects, I can upload them along with instructions on how to add them to an existing sound effects studio. I'm hoping many customers do the same, so the sound effects studio can keep expanding."

For dozens of companies familiar with telecommunications, CompuServe is a way to reach customers. "I think the Apple Vendor Forums should be a pretty active place," says Shapiro.

Jack Puryear

Forum part of business plan: *LeVitus*

The Ultimate Upgrade: PC3 Release 3.1d

by Michael Houdeshell

Just when your old version of Professional Connection is getting broken in and, well, comfy, along comes an upgrade release with a host of surprising new features, more scripts and the ability to work with that new machinery you might buy sometime soon. Life is so unfair.

Professional Connection version 3.1d works pretty much like its precursors. The function key assignments remain for the most part unchanged.

PC3.1d was developed with the newer hardware in mind. The standard issue is now available in two formats: two 5.25-inch diskettes or a single 3.5-inch diskette for PS/2 compatibles and laptop users. Version 3.1d also works with the new VGA and MCGA Video Display Adapters on PS/2 machines. And you can make your connection via Hayes 2400-baud and the faster V-series 9600-baud modems, for which predefined settings are now provided.

Operation on existing equipment also has improved. Graphics capabilities and file transfers on the Tandy 2000 are now fully supported.

Release 3.1d extends the capabilities of your most important peripheral—your printer. CompuServe is seeking to establish the Graphics Interchange Format protocol as the industry standard for graphics file transmission. This protocol, which carries everything from GIF-formatted weather maps to full-color forum library images to your screen, can also, using PC3.1d, work with many printers. The addition of GRAFPLUS software to what is a "communications package" even enables you to print downloaded image files offline.

The new B+ transfer protocol will accelerate downloading from forum libraries; and if you have to leave in a hurry, you can now interrupt the transmission and take up later where you left off. PC3.1d saves the partial file and remembers where to get the rest of it when you log on again. If you would like to burn the candle at both ends, you can now switch freely between your COM1 and COM2 ports with no loss of connection or screen information, leaving both channels open. And you can "talk" at speeds ranging from 110 to 19,200 baud.

Finally, if you try to exit the Professional Connection application without disconnecting, it lets you know. No more risk of "extra" charges incurred while CompuServe politely waits to hang up on you.

The new PC3.1d editor strikes a happy medium between a word processor and online editors. You can use it to edit messages offline and then upload them to your workspace. For the efficiency-minded, the editor lets you write in a RAM buffer and send your message online without even spinning a disk. Or, using the editor's windowing capability, work on two documents at once, then send one out

Private 3Com Forum Opens on CompuServe

by Paul Newkirk

3Com Corp., the largest independent computer networking company—providing multivendor connectivity and information sharing for work group, department and corporate environments worldwide—is taking its main discussion forum from the business to the public side of CompuServe (GO ASK3COM).

"The new forum will open up the working forum we now have to both the 3Com users on CompuServe and those who do not currently have electronic access to us," says Forum Administrator Ed Greenberg.

3Com designs, manufactures, markets and supports a comprehensive range of local and wide area network systems based on industry standards and open systems architecture. The company has reported record orders, sales and net income in each of its last three fiscal years, illustrating the powerful position it holds in the networking industry.

Noting one advantage in having a forum on CompuServe's Information Service, Greenberg says, "We can discuss 3Com in our own forum instead of in other public forums. We can provide a specific place for all of our users to talk and learn how to use their networks better.

Cindy Charles

Provides electronic access: *Greenberg*

"In the private forum, we have seen a sharing of information and experience," he says. "Questions are posted by people wanting to use their hardware with equipment from our company. They want to know how they can achieve a more efficient configuration, and the forum lets them talk with others using the same hardware. Others are looking for people who have expanded their networks. If the question is related to any networking components, that is definitely an issue for the forum."

Along with Greenberg, 3Com has three support planning engineers responsible for reading what is posted on the forum. But, according to Greenberg, "Typically, other users have answered a question as soon as it is posted. Because most of our users are trained, we consider ourselves secondary resources."

What the training means is that your questions to 3Com on the forum might just be answered by a wizard—a 3Wizard, that is. Says Greenberg, "3Com operates an extensive Education Services Program, offering classes for everyone from novice users to service engineers and software developers. One of our programs provides stringent training to individuals who are then known as 3Wizards.

"3Wizards are proud of what they have learned. When questions come up on the forum, they jump in where others may fear to tread. They also seem to like the forum because they can hobnob with fellow Wizards," he says.

Greenberg expects to offer 3Com's technical library, product information, data sheets and course catalogs on CompuServe as well.

Messages on the private forum indi-

each port. PC3.1d can keep you as busy as you want to be.

With the new version comes the implementation of a new registration process. If you already have version 2.0, 3.0 or 3.1 and you bought it online, consider yourself registered. If you obtained one of those versions from a computer store or through CompuServe's Telephone Sales, tear out the back page of your old Professional Connection Users Guide, write down your name, address, and CompuServe User ID number, and mail it to CompuServe, Attention: PC3 Exchange, P.O. Box 20212, Columbus, OH 43220. As a registered user, you can obtain an upgrade kit, which includes a Users Guide supplement and program diskette(s). All you have to do to order this new version—or upgrades to any subsequent releases—is type GO ORDER at any online prompt. You will be offered your choice of the 5.25- or 3.25-inch media. The upgrade costs $5 plus shipping and handling. First-time purchases are $49.95.

cate that users are pleased. One forum member posted a message saying, "Of the eight or so questions that I have submitted, six were answered in 24 hours or less." Another forum member posted a thank-you message telling his forum support story. "Ed—Thanks for your response. ... I have little personal experience with desktop publishers. At about 3 p.m. Monday, a client handed me the problem you responded to along with another 'VAR-opportunity' (Value Added Reseller) dealing with disk drives. I placed both problems on the forum. ... By 9 p.m. Monday night, there were five responses for me. Today I have picked up several more. My client was impressed by my ability to provide relevant and timely information—and that is the real game for VARs."

The ultimate benefit is the improved level of support for 3Com users and resellers. Says Greenberg, "We hope to see some good discussion. The more input that comes to this, the better the chances for a person looking for a particular configuration. Somebody else will have used the application in a network environment and know why it worked."

Welcoming the influx of 3Com users, Greenberg says, "As the user base grows, so does the intelligence base. That is better for everybody and that is what the forum is all about."

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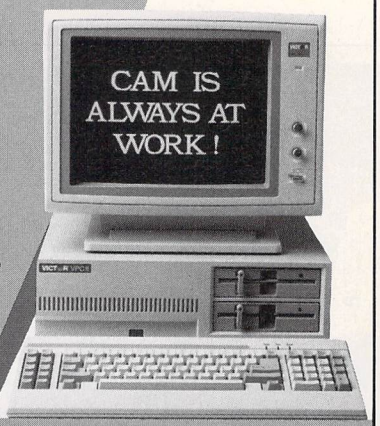

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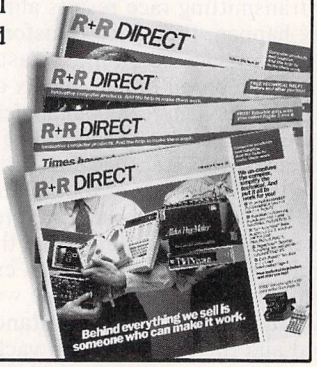
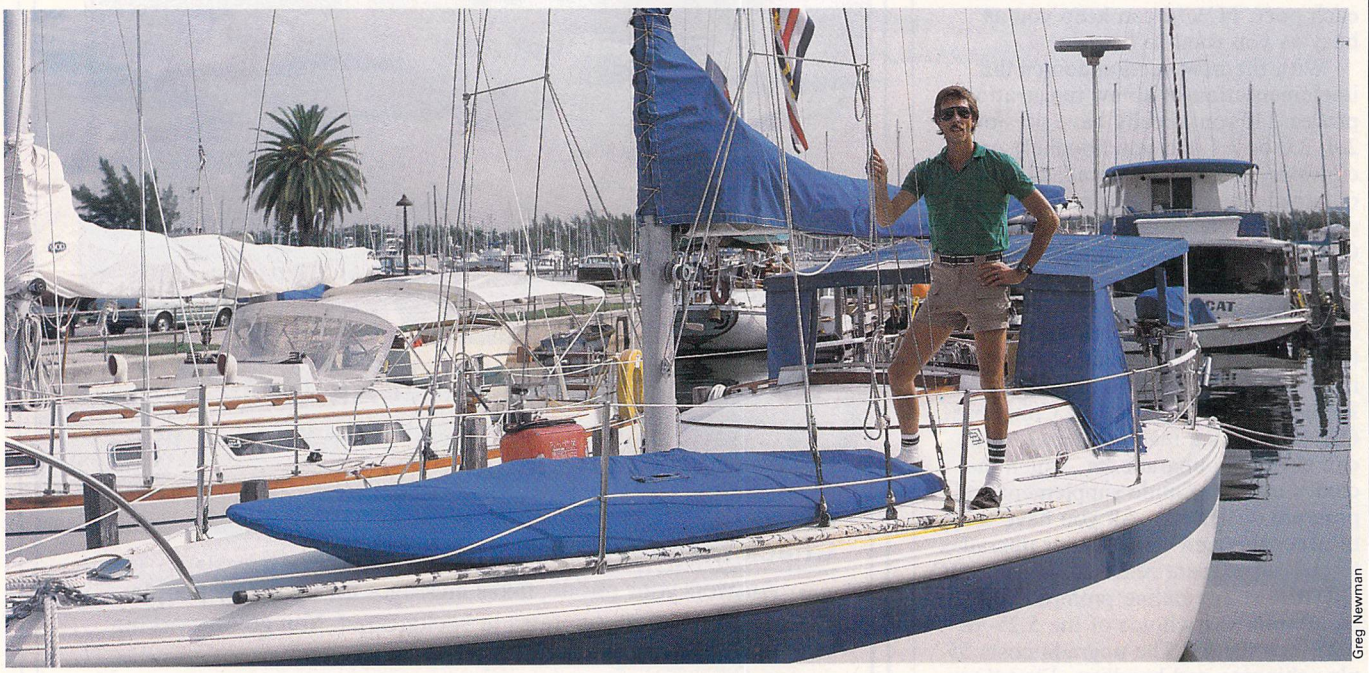




Greg Newman

His "electronic yacht club" tracks race progress, invites questions: *Lovell*

Chart the Racing Sails

Members Navigate High-tech Seas Aboard the Sailing Forum

by Cathryn Conroy

Any sailor will tell you there is something magical about the sea, some ecstatic feeling that wells from the soul when the mist from the waves sprays your face as the swell and the wind propel the boat forward. This commune with nature hardly seems to have a place in the high-tech world of computers and satellites, but it does. Just ask John Lovell and Keith Taylor.

Lovell, the administrator of the Sailing Forum and an avid sailor himself, and Taylor, former editor of *Sail* magazine and now an editorial consultant, are charting new waters when it comes to high-tech sailing information. Using the Sailing Forum as a medium for transmitting race results almost as they happen, they have transformed a sleepy message board into a fast-paced newsroom based on a complex array of international high-tech communications.

One of the joys of the sailing sport is racing. However, because it doesn't have the popularity of football or baseball, news of sailing races is rarely covered in any great depth by the mass media. Yet sailing aficionados crave details from the height of the waves at each turning mark to the distance made good and the speed of each yacht.

The America's Cup race is perhaps the best-known sailing venture, and for the past few years the coveted prize has been a highly competitive match pitting Australia, New Zealand and the United States against one another. In 1987, the America's Cup was held in Fremantle, Australia, about 60 miles south of Perth. With the race taking place on the other side of the world, US sailors were at a loss for immediate news of the event.

But the Sailing Forum stepped in. Louis Vuitton, the sponsor of the America's Cup Challenger Series, Ing C. Olivetti Co. and AFTER s.r.l. Software set up information centers around the world for race news to be posted as it became available. But as there were only a handful of these centers, the Sailing Forum decided to provide race coverage.

When the races ended at about 4 p.m. in Australia (4 a.m. in New York), Andrea Filacchioni, president of AFTER s.r.l. Software and a computer programmer, called Perth from Fremantle, connecting through the Computer Sciences Corp. international network to CompuServe, to upload the day's race results in greater detail than any other news source provided. Filacchioni's data was displayed in the Media Centers with lively, colored graphics on a networked Olivetti personal computer system. He then reduced these displays to simple ASCII charts for CompuServe. And all of it was available by 6 a.m. for Americans to enjoy with their morning coffee.

The Sailing Forum provided up-to-date statistical information on the race as fast as it was provided in Fremantle at the local Louis Vuitton Media Center. "This was a beautiful display of two of CompuServe's major strengths," says Taylor. "One is the capability to rapidly pick up and distribute specialized data. The other is the capacity to retain this information in archival fashion for subsequent research."

Information on the 1987 and 1988 America's Cup races is available in the forum's Library 11.

When NBC devoted just 12 minutes to sailing of its 156 hours of television coverage of the Summer Olympic Games in Seoul, the Sailing Forum was where many turned for race results and highlights.

But the true test of integrating the technology with sailing came with the British Oxygen Corp.'s Challenge Around the World Race. Named as the official information source, the Sailing Forum used transmitters, satellites, international telephone lines and more to provide the race news.

As the boats sailed around the world, their movements were tracked by on-board, suitcase-sized transmitters that signaled the Argos satellite as it passed overhead every four hours. That information was then transmitted by the satellite to France, and from there it was sent by satellite to Langley, Va. Scientists at Langley Air Force Base compiled the raw data and sent it back to France where it was further organized and prepared for dissemination. Daily position reports were sent from France to Lovell in Miami, Fla., who made a local call to TYMNET and then connected to a satellite uplink station to receive the report, which he then uploaded to the Sailing Forum.

Lovell admits that a sailing race is not a crowd-pleasing sport, but it does hold a tremendous amount of interest for those who sail. "Racing allows sailors to get an insight into the design of new boats, such as the catamaran used in the 1988 America's Cup, as well as to find out how they can improve their own sailing," he says. "Sailors ask questions to learn how to do new things, such as how to head into the wind and still make forward progress. The race stimulates ideas and allows the sailing enthusiast to get more out of the sport."

Calling the Sailing Forum an "electronic yacht club," Lovell says that it is an ideal place to learn because it is conducive to asking questions. "Most people wouldn't feel as free to ask a question at their local yacht club for fear of looking stupid. But we don't have that sort of pressure here. In the Sailing Forum, you can get information on boat handling, race tactics and ideas for things that can be done," he adds.

Currently, the Sailing Forum is tracking several attempts to break the sailing record from New York to San Francisco via Cape Horn. "The record of 89 days for the 15,000 mile voyage, set by the clipper ship Flying Cloud 138 years ago, still stands today," says Taylor. "In recent years, four sailboats have sunk in rough conditions near Cape Horn while attempting to beat the record." Using satellites, the Sailing Forum is tracking their daily progress on this treacherous trip.

To join in the fun without having to wear a life jacket, type GO SAILING.

Cathryn Conroy is a contributing editor of Online Today. *Her CompuServe User ID number is 70007,417.*

See Your Team at Bat and Dream Home Runs

by Cathryn Conroy

When the ump yells "Strike three, you're out" and your favorite baseball team is down by four runs, chances are you have a thing or two to tell the manager. If only you could.

If you've always thought you could manage a winning baseball team, here's your chance: Fantasy Baseball in the Sports Forum.

Chuckle if you want, but the participants take this very seriously. Teams are organized into leagues; in 1988, for instance, there were 174 teams in 17 leagues. Each manager selects a team of 24 real baseball players with the object of accumulating the most total points spread over eight statistical categories, including earned run averages, batting averages, stolen bases and runs batted in. The statistics are generated from the performance of the players in actual games.

For instance, if one of your team members is Darryl Strawberry and he hits home run after home run this summer in his games with the New York Mets, you come out a winner as well, tallying points for his superb hitting.

Some pretty strange things can happen. "I'm from Philadelphia, so I'm bored with baseball by July because the Phillies are usually losing by then," says Mitchell Rubin, M.D., the Champion of Champions winner of 1988 Fantasy Baseball. "But if one of my Fantasy Baseball pitchers is playing against the Phillies, I root for that pitcher."

You'll probably become good at working the TV remote control as you tune in the players on your Fantasy roster. And you might find yourself tapping into the Associated Press Sports wire in the Executive News Service to keep on top of the statistics.

"It does become a bit of an obsession," admits Rubin. Sports Forum Administrator Harry Conover agrees that it is easy for Fantasy Baseball to become more than a game. "You know there is more to life than Fantasy Baseball, and you'll get to it in just a minute, but first, where are yesterday's box scores and why doesn't Sparky Anderson learn how to manage?" he says. "It becomes a way of life. Every box score has the power to make your day or break your heart."

If immersing yourself in six months of baseball sounds like fun, note that leagues for the 1989 season are forming now with the draft of players taking place this month.

Each Fantasy manager is given $260 of electronic play money to buy his roster. Some players can be bought for as little as $1, while others may cost as much as $46. There is strategy involved in securing the best players you can within this salary cap. Every player who might make the majors within your league needs to be evaluated. "Read everything you can get your hands on," advises Conover.

If that rookie you drafted with such great expectations turns out to be a dud, you can trade him during the season. Free agents can also be called up to boost your team's performance. The latest standings and all important statistical category rankings are posted weekly on the message board, while each team's cumulative individual player statistics are filed in the forum's libraries.

Each manager gives his team a name. Recent examples are the Grilled Reubens, the Cracker Jocks, Louisville Sluggers and the Wright Angles.

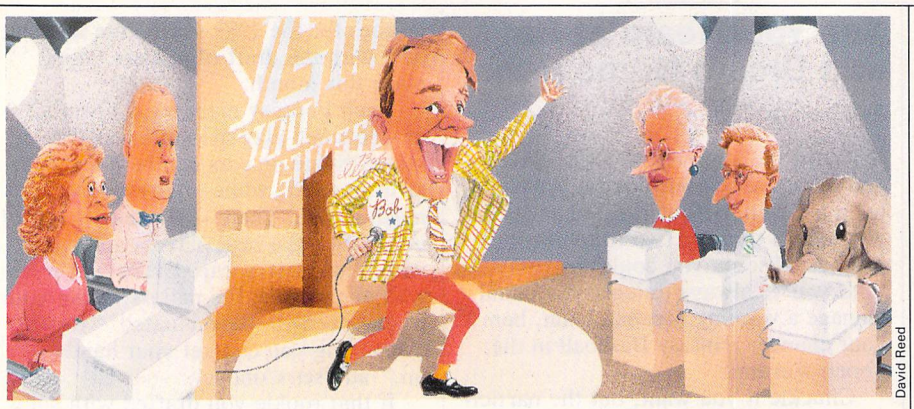
The rules are complex and lengthy but are well explained in several files in Sports Forum Library 11. Complete rules of play are in FANBB.89, and the Eligibility Position Listings are in ALPOS.TXT and NLPOS.TXT. Browse Library 11 for additional files of interest to download and study.

Be forewarned: Fantasy Baseball is a passion. Those who play are required to be online at least once a week; most are on a lot more than that. But Fantasy Baseball is a lot of fun and creates a sense of fraternity among those who participate.

Another reward is the grand prize for the Champion of Champions: a week at the Winter Haven, Fla., Sox Exchange Baseball Fantasy Camp, playing ball and spending time with former Boston Red Sox greats. "This is where Fantasy Baseball crosses the line into baseball fantasy," says Conover.

Rubin was thrilled with the prize, which is valued at $3,200. "We're a bunch of over-the-hill, out-of-shape people trying to live out childhood fantasies by playing with the big timers," he says. "It was a pretty amazing trip. I became an instant Red Sox fan."

If you want to live out your baseball fantasies, join the Sports Forum (GO FANS) and dream big.



David Reed

Team Up for Trivia: *YGI!* Challenges Players

by Michael Houdeshell

Are you ready to play *YGI!*? I'm not shouting. Really. In the online world, where capital letters and exclamation marks are the equivalent of a raised voice, it is difficult to discuss the *You Guessed It!* online game show without feeling like you ought to be excited. And if you talk to the players, you've fallen in with a talkative, personable lot.

Alyce Blue Gossamer, recently Multi-Player Games Forum Member of the Month, is a case in point. (Yes, that's her name; such fancifully idiosyncratic names, or "handles," predominate in a realm where you can dub yourself.) "I stay with the game because of the people," she says. "It's not just the game itself that keeps your interest; it's as much or more the game lobby, where players meet to set up teams. I've met lots of people through *YGI!*, and we've even exchanged birthday cards."

YGI! has been called an online version of television's "Family Feud," where audience polls determine the correct answers to questions. It has also been called an online parody of the game show format. Actually, it's a bit of both: players are savvy to the send-up, but are quite agreeable to hauling loot out of the *YGI!* Prize Bunker. Now the secret's out. Among the Multi-Player Games, *YGI!* alone gives you a chance to win prizes.

Transmitted live from the studios of the Creative Compucasting Corp., *YGI!* boasts a regular cast of on-screen and technical personnel. Reading the cue cards is Bob Illuminati, one of those not-so-bright but zealously unctuous hosts whose immense ego is in inverse proportion to its justification. At the start of each *YGI!* game, he bounds onto the stage, clad in his jaunty, plaid coat of many loud colors. Address him as Your Royal Plaidness and the master punster would probably think you are laughing with him. We all know the classic game show host he brings to mind, right? <knowing smile, wink>. (Gestures and facial expressions are traditionally expressed online by placing them between angle brackets.)

Other 3-C Studio notables: Phil Vox, the dulcet-voiced announcer; Dominic the Doorman, the suave usher; and Mary Lou Beltzer, the air-head cue card girl. Then there's Stan the Stagehand, who talks like an ex-roadie for the Grateful Dead, if you, like, know what I mean, man.

One other thing. The permanent 3-C cast members are very different from you and me. They are made of gleaming bytes and dancing electrons, while we are mere flesh and blood.

But they do a convincing job of running the games, which start every 15 minutes on the quarter hour and last about 30 minutes each. Players meet in the game lobby (much like the CB Simulator or a forum conference room), where they can chat with and size up other players before choosing sides. To play a team game, you have to put your name on the Challenge Board with the /DUEL command. The /VIEW option lets you join the studio audience and contribute your vote to the cumulative audience poll.

Once the game has started, you are fair game for Bob's jibes and pun-leavened wit. If you delay in answering a question, expect to be nudged a bit. After you respond, Bob refers to the Big Board (say this with a Brooklyn accent), final arbiter of all that is right and wrong in *YGI!* (Actually, you can appeal a near-miss to all players in the current game by typing /CHALLENGE and the number of points being challenged—for example, /CHALLENGE 3 or /C3.) A correct answer earns a hearty "You Guessed It!" from Bob, while a miss is awarded an equally vigorous cry of "You Glitched It!." Bob often prefaces his next question with a groaning-pun reference to the previous answer.

At half-time, players—and players only—retire to the exclusive *YGI!* lounge to apply hot cranial compresses, talk about the game and plot second-half strategies. Then, back to the game!

In case of a draw, Bob wheels out the tie-breaker question.

Some veteran *YGI!*ers have their own game, a sort of quiz show version of highway chicken. Although there are literally thousands of questions, players such as Ace—who has shot many a challenger out of the *YGI!* sky—have mastered the majority through many hours of play. Thus the "glitch game," as it's known among adept players, was born.

One peculiarity of *YGI!*—and one explanation for its attractiveness to the conversationally inclined—is that it allows you to include a comment in your answer. For instance, you might answer a question about long-snouted beasts with "aardvarks: Bob's hairpiece just slipped." In the "glitch game," players deliberately miss all the questions while incorporating scoring responses in their comments. Then they face down in a white-knuckle, sudden-death tie-breaker.

YGI! seems to encourage such innovation and self-determination among its loyal players. After YGI!ers organized their own tournament using the Multi-Player Games Forum (GO MPGAMES) last year, two *YGI!* sections were added to the forum. Conversations now regularly spill over from the lobby to the forum section and have led to several recent real-life gatherings for players. Many await the return of the *Trivia Tag* game, which they created and played on the forum.

In the past, players have decided to enhance the fictional studios with their own lobby additions, such as the Player Pool (filled with Jell-O) and the duck-infested lobby fountain. One player, Bond James Bond, holds that "the characters are essential to the game; they give it its special feeling. They tend to take away the impersonality of a computer game and make it easier to enjoy the game." Bond has posted extensive biographies of several characters in the forum library; even the ducks in the fountains have their own life stories. Believe it.

But some don't depend on this created environment to provide their fun.

As Nightshift, who produces *The Electronic Gamer* (an online magazine, GO TEG) and is the MPGames forum administrator, says, "The *YGI!*er is a more 'intellectual' gamer, someone who enjoys conversations with his opponents, as opposed to 'blasting them out of the sky' as in some other games."

Even the nearly invincible Ace says he's "made a lot of friends in *YGI!*, some of whom have crossed over into real life ... I'm there more for the camaraderie than for the game."

And here's some bad news for Bob: Alyce Blue Gossamer thinks the electronic characters are "immaterial" to her enjoyment, while Ace grants that "they are more like furniture to me, as they help create the ambiance of a real TV game show. Without them, the game would lack that dimension and their absence would detract from the 'feel' of the game."

Whatever their preferences, *YGI!*ers prize a sense of humor. To Nightshift, the typical player has "a screwy and fine-tuned sense of humor."

"If you enjoy Monty Python, you'd like *YGI!*," says Alyce Blue Gossamer.

How should the novice approach the game? The mysterious Madame X (known familiarly as "Xie"), the *YGI!* section administrator on the forum, exhorts beginners "to join in the conversations. We always like new players in *YGI!*"

Along with the influx of new players, *YGI!* is itself undergoing some renovations. More questions are being added, and whole new categories of questions are being developed. Some questions and answers that seem a bit dated will be freshened up (a surprise objection to some trivia buffs, who hold that the older, the better). Bob will definitely welcome the changes. He's always up-to-date, in expression and dress. Groovy is the word he'd probably use.

And new characters might be in the offing. According to Jim Howard, one of the game's creators, "The characters come from the process of writing and the demands of writing questions on a particular topic. A lot of times, characters sort of emerge; they just show up. It's not the kind of thing we plan."

Whether you believe in the characters or not is your own decision. After all, *YGI!* is a game show that lampoons game shows; a sort of new-wave, ironic, "postmodernist" game: a game about games. It is the game show for the "Moonlighting" crowd.

And now, for the tie-breaker, what does the ! in *YGI!* really stand for? Show it to me, Big Board! 1—excitement and prizes! 2—a mysterious math symbol you can't remember from the 10th grade. 3—a sound made in certain sub-Saharan dialects. *You Guessed It!*

Michael Houdeshell is a free-lance writer based in Columbus, Ohio.

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Tom Cagley

The Outer Banks: *Long stretches of isolated beach provide the ultimate escape*

By the Ocean Shore

Delight in Miles of Sand on North Carolina's Outer Banks

by Peggy and Chris Devan

If your idea of a vacation is to go fishing, camping, exploring and sailing, or if you think the ideal two-weeks-off is a beach umbrella over your head, a cold drink in one hand and a book in the other, the place to be is the Outer Banks, that 100-mile-long sandbar (a chain of islands and peninsulas) along the coast of North Carolina.

To complete this picture of vacation bliss, add to the list visits to Ocracoke, the home of Blackbeard the Pirate; Roanoke Island, home of Virginia Dare and Sir Walter Raleigh's first settlement; Kitty Hawk, home of Wilbur and Orville Wright's first flying machine; and Cape Hatteras, home of shipwrecks and lighthouses.

For centuries, winds and tides, storms and seas have fought, flirted, teased and embraced these shores, creating sand dunes, marshes, beaches and woodlands. Pelicans and seagulls fly through the air and porpoises leap from the water as playfully as the children leap into it. And there's still plenty of room on the beach, where you can find either solitude or crowds, and in the wide assortment of accommodations, ranging from national hotel chains like Holiday Inn and Ramada Inn to comfortable cottages such as the Ocean View Cottage Courts in Kill Devil Hills to camp sites on the Cape Hatteras National Seashore. A call to the Chamber of Commerce in Kill Devil Hills yields a flood of brochures and agencies' names for every taste and pocketbook.

From the tourist information center as you arrive on the peninsula to Bodie's Island at Oregon Inlet, everything is located by "milepost" numbers from one to 17. After crossing the bridge to the less-developed Hatteras Island, there are no more mileposts—only miles and miles of sand and villages.

Fishy Finds

The area offers pier fishing, surf fishing, deep-sea fishing and crabbing. Fishermen go after cobia and sea bass, flounder, grouper and Spanish mackerel. Channel bass and gray trout can be had from Oregon Inlet, which is between the peninsula and Hatteras Island, near Ocracoke Island. Croakers and speckled trout are regularly taken from Pamlico and Albemarle Sounds behind the peninsula. There are eight piers as well as more than 20 beach access ramps provided by the National Park Service. Surf fishing is done almost anywhere along the beach, while fishing off bridges is largely frowned on but done.

If you prefer to eat the seafood rather than catch it, fresh fish markets abound, such as Billy's on Colington Island and Daniel's Whalebone Seafood Market at Milepost 16½. Revel in fresh flounder and live shrimp, spot and Spanish mackerel, fresh tuna, swordfish and soft-shelled crabs. You can purchase jimmie crabs for steaming or already steamed. "Catch of the day" is a phrase on every menu and on every priceboard. Fish market clerks will tell you how to cook your selection if you don't know.

Eating out on the Outer Banks is a special experience. Many of the restaurants have been there for years; many more come and go, seemingly with the tides. Recommendations are tricky because the quality frequently varies from year to year in any given restaurant. Restaurant-by-George at Milepost 11 in Nag's Head and Port-O-Call in Kill Devil Hills (Milepost 8½) are two stable and elegant dining establishments where the dress code is nearly anything you want, except bare feet and swimsuits. Evans' Crab House in Kill Devil Hills (Milepost 10) has been a steady favorite. Midgette's Barbecue in Kitty Hawk (at the sign of the pink pig) is always good but truly humble. Awful Arthur's (Milepost 6 in Kill Devil Hills) is the place for raw oysters. Try Flipper's in Kitty Hawk for scrambled eggs with fish roe.

Free weekly publications describe the restaurants and their menus, prices and entertainment. These are usually reliable, if you keep in mind that the restaurant owners often write the descriptions.

Active Retreats

Sport! The very word generates excitement on the Outer Banks, whether it refers to swimming, fishing, diving, sailing, windsurfing, hang-gliding or to the simpler pleasures of walking on the beach in bare feet, tossing the occasional frisbee and watching the pelicans in flight. Even the most sedentary visitor should visit Jockey's Ridge, a state park enclosing the largest sand dune on the East Coast, where dune climbing, kite flying and hang-gliding may be indulged in by the ambi

tious and admired by the earth-bound. All of the necessary equipment can be rented or purchased, with instructions as needed, from the Kitty Hawk Connection at Milepost 13, directly across the highway from Jockey's Ridge.

A pleasant evening cruise from the Pirate's Cove Marina leaves from the Manteo end of the Nag's Head Causeway and, for an hour and a half, navigates the Roanoke Sound. Charter boats go out to sea on half-day and full-day fishing cruises into the Gulf Stream. At the Oregon Inlet Fishing Center, located on the north side of the Oregon Inlet where the ocean and the sounds come together, charter crews will help you with equipment, supplies and know-how. They will tell you about the Saltwater Fishing Citation Program, designed to certify record catches, and the Release Citation Program, which requires that some species of fish be returned to the ocean after being caught. The same boats take serious divers out to the famous casualties of the sea.

History's Treasures

Off the Outer Banks, more than 600 shipwrecks are known to have occurred because of storm, mutiny or act of war. Several can be seen close to shore off the Cape Hatteras National Seashore. Others, further out, are a haven for fish and divers. Whether you see the actual wrecks or the pictures in the Visitor's Center, you get a strange feeling for the hundreds of men and women who lost their lives at sea. With shipwrecks, of course, come lighthouses to prevent wrecks. There are four of them on the Outer Banks, each with distinctive markings and flashing patterns.

The Outer Banks teems with history. It was on Ocracoke Island that the notorious Captain Teach made his headquarters until, as Blackbeard the Pirate, he was captured and killed in 1718. In Kitty Hawk, the Wright brothers found the ideal location to test their gliders from the top of a sand dune known as Kill Devil Hills, and in 1903, at the base of the hill, launched their powered flight. The Museum at the Wright Brothers National Memorial adjacent to the launching site is managed by the National Park Service, as is the Fort Raleigh National Historical Site, where that unfortunate colony, first settled in 1585, mysteriously disappeared shortly thereafter. This event is memorialized nightly in the Paul Green musical drama "The Lost Colony," a must for all visitors.

Near the "Lost Colony" theatre on Roanoke Island is the North Carolina Aquarium with daily programs for adults and children. Also nearby is the Elizabethan Gardens, a design experience for horticulturalists of all ages. In the town of Manteo, also on Roanoke Island, there is the recently acquired "Elizabeth II," a replica of a 16th-century wooden sailing vessel like those used by Raleigh in establishing his ill-fated colony.

Stop to Shop

Visitors should take in the many monuments to another Outer Banks pastime—shopping. Shopping for jewelry, shopping for T-shirts, shopping for the love of shopping. Shopping for gifts, for edibles, for arts and for crafts; shopping for beachwear, shopping for bargains. Be sure to visit the Towel Outlet, which has much more than towels. Gray's Family Department Store carries everything you forgot to bring from home. The Galleon Esplanade has 10 shops for books, jewelry, gifts and more gifts. In Hatteras Village, Summer Stuff features island clothing and gifts. The Kitty Hawk Connection offers sports equipment, homemade ice cream and fudge, and even has a playport for the kids. And then go to the true shopper's heaven, the Christmas Shop in Manteo, featuring room after room of Christmas decorations, paintings and sculptures.

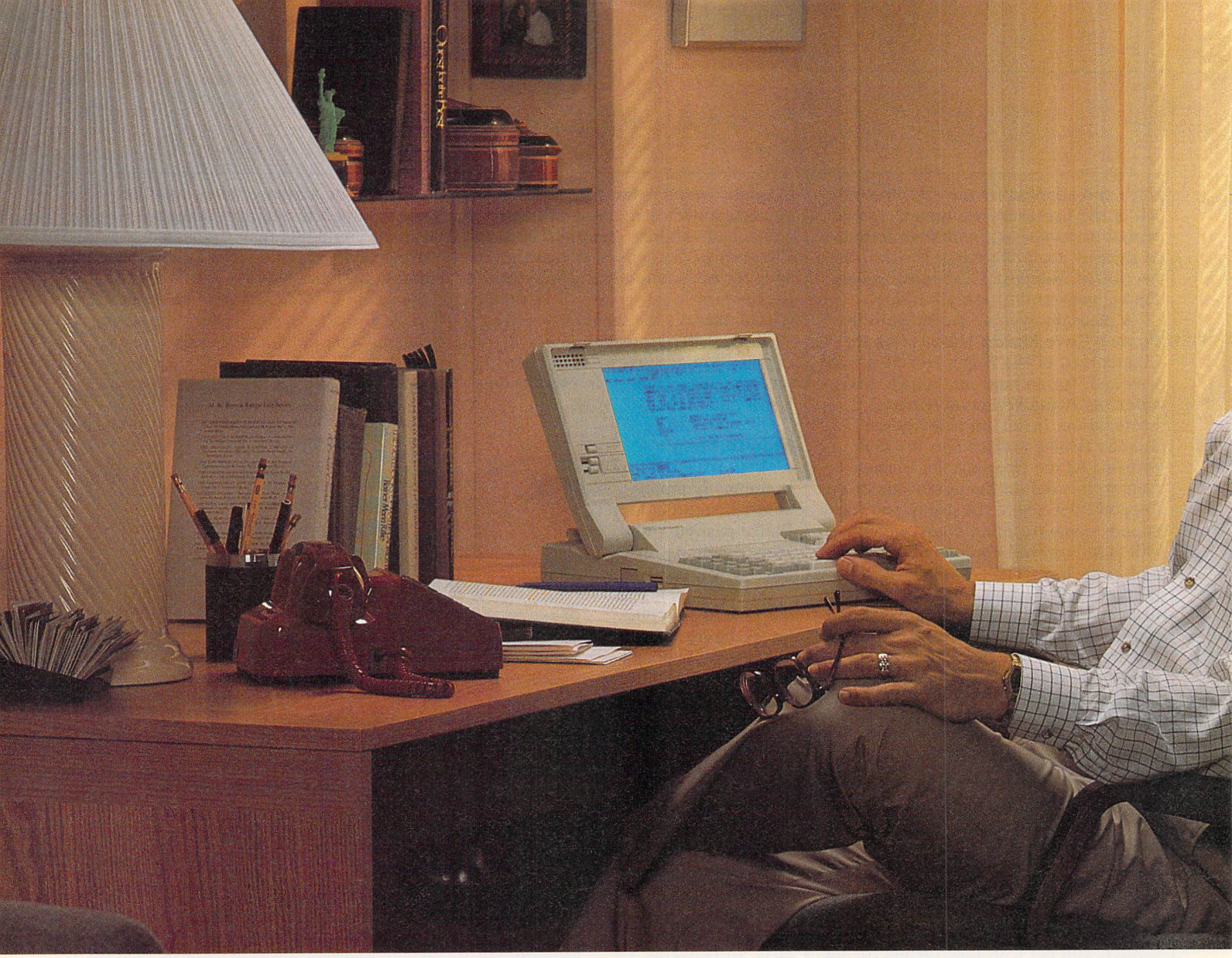
Lasting Moments

On the Outer Banks it is easy to do too much. It is easy to program so many activities that the birds and the sand, the sea-oats and the seaweed, the eternally changing ocean itself can be forgotten. But when you've done all these things and then watched nature and man come together, you'll feel that you've had a wonderful vacation. After loading the car to go home, you may want to visit the beach for that last dip in the ocean, for it doesn't get any better than on the Outer Banks of North Carolina.

Peggy and Chris Devan are residents of Charlottesville, Va. When they are not traveling for business or pleasure, she works for Charlottesville Broadcasting Corp. and he works for Coldwell Banker/Bailey Realtor Co.

Tom Cagley

Don't pick the posies: *Erosion-stopper is government-protected*



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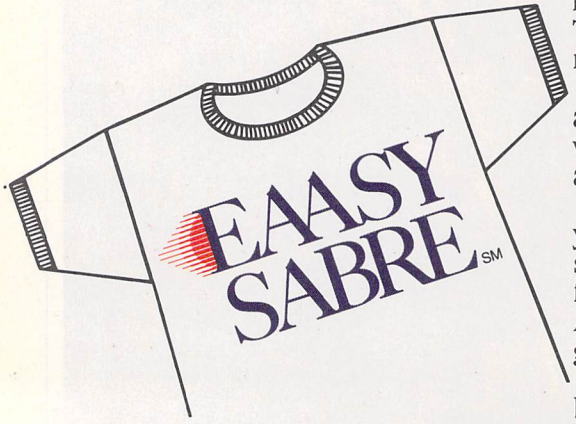

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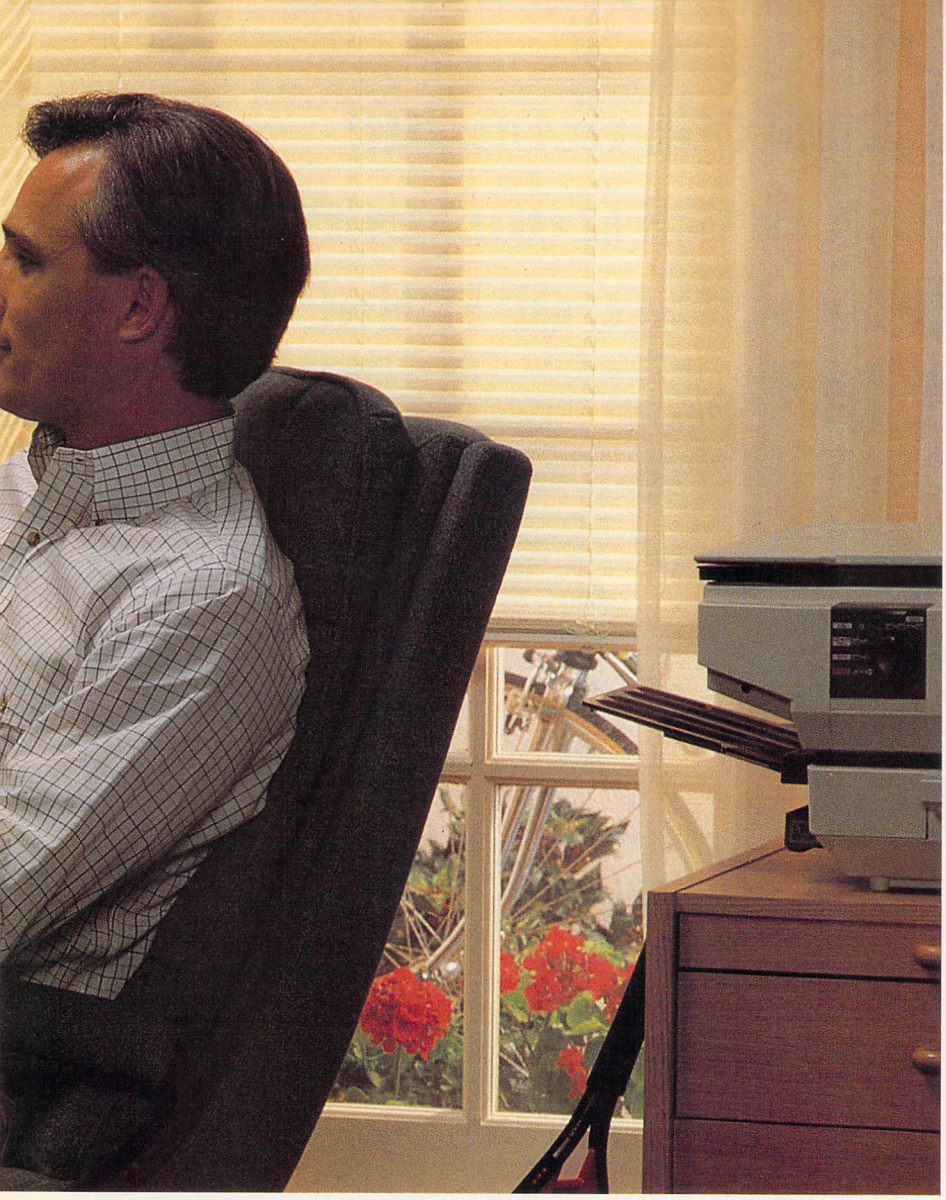

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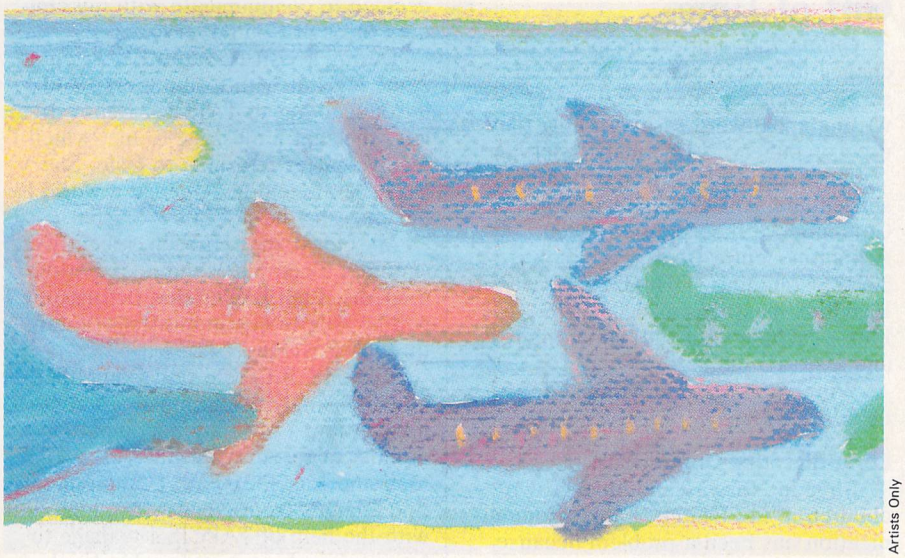


Artists Only

Challenge the Skies with Eaasy Sabre

by Robert Loomis

With today's crowded skies, it is more challenging than ever to have patience on the ground. Between fare wars and delayed, over-booked and canceled flights, weary travelers and their families are faced with surprises and unexpected aggravations. American Airlines' Eaasy Sabre (GO SABRE), however, can help you avoid some of these aggravations with its new enhancements.

Before leaving home, you now can obtain flight arrival or departure information on most flights, and gate numbers and baggage claim information on all American Airlines' flights. You also can obtain scheduled arrival and departure information for other airlines.

"The luggage and gate information is unique to Eaasy Sabre," says Janet Altemeier, American Airlines' manager of corporate and consumer products.

Eaasy Sabre has introduced other enhancements, such as the ability to:

- Customize flight displays by requesting non-stop and direct flights, flights offering a preferred class of service, flights for a preferred airline and flights routed through a preferred connecting city.
- View the last fare quoted for a trip and request a new price quote, including any new discounted fares that may apply.
- Obtain online membership to Travelers' Access Travel Club, which offers a variety of discounted travel packages to CompuServe subscribers for a $39 annual membership fee. As a currently offered special, the fee is available for three months at $1.

"With the introduction of these enhancements, Eaasy Sabre is a more desirable and comprehensive travel package," Altemeier says. "The ability to customize flight displays gives CompuServe subscribers the capability to view information based on their needs. The flexible pricing feature ensures that they obtain the lowest fare for any reservation."

Travel Club members can take advantage of discounted travel opportunities, such as cruises, tours and short-notice vacation packages. In addition, Travel Access membership entitles subscribers to a low-price guarantee and eligibility for a 5 percent cash bonus on all travel booked through Travel Access on Eaasy Sabre.

CompuServe subscribers can join the Travel Club while online in Eaasy Sabre. Even without joining the Travel Club, subscribers can browse through the many values, including cruises, tours, flights, cars, condo vacations, hotels and short-notice specials.

With the addition of these enhancements, Eaasy Sabre has a new look. The Travel Club is accessible from Eaasy Sabre's main menu, and a new Reservations Menu has been added for access to flights, arrival/departure information, hotels, car rentals, fares and itinerary review.

"These enhancements are based on direct input from CompuServe subscribers," Altemeier says. "These particular enhancements are what subscribers requested the most."

Gift of Time

Online Today offers members the chance to win 10 hours of standard service connect time (a $60 value) by writing a 200-word essay on how they use CompuServe's Information Service.

The essay should be typed double-spaced and sent to *Online Today*, CompuServe Incorporated, 5000 Arlington Centre Blvd., P.O. Box 20212, Columbus, OH 43220, or via an EasyPlex message to 70003,3246. Please include your full name, address and User ID number.

Winning essays are published in *Online Today*.

Long-distance Connection

I live in Norway and have grown children in the United States. Communication has been a problem because mail is slow and long-distance phone calls are expensive. When my daughter, Anne, recently bought a computer, I decided to communicate with my children through CompuServe.

During a visit to Santa Fe, I helped Anne register with CompuServe and introduced her to TAPCIS. Before I left, she sent a message to me, which I received after returning to Oslo. She says the modem has opened a world to her that she did not know existed.

My oldest son, Hayden, recently acquired a computer and is exploring modems. I am hoping that before long I will be able to communicate with him through EasyPlex.

Like me, they will find CompuServe an increasingly useful means of communication. I not only participate in a number of forums, but have used MCI-Mail and EasyPlex Fax. Communication charges from Norway are high, but with the help of TAPCIS I manage to keep my costs to a reasonable level.

John C. Ausland
Oslo, Norway

Ask Customer Service

Q: I enjoy keeping up on current events, but find that I often miss news stories online because I log on only once a day. Is there a solution to this?

A: The Executive News Service (ENS), CompuServe's news-clipping service, allows you to select and store articles online. Your personal "clipping folder," which includes the keywords and news services you selected, finds and retains stories for you throughout the day while you are offline.

Q: How do I set up a folder?

A: Select Option 4, "Create/Change/Delete a Folder," from the Executive News Service main menu. You will be prompted for a folder name, an expiration date (folders can be kept for up to one year), and the number of days to retain stories (up to 14 days). You then will be prompted to choose the news wires you want the Executive News Service to scan, and enter the words and phrases for which you wish to search.

Q: Which news wires are available in the Executive News Service?

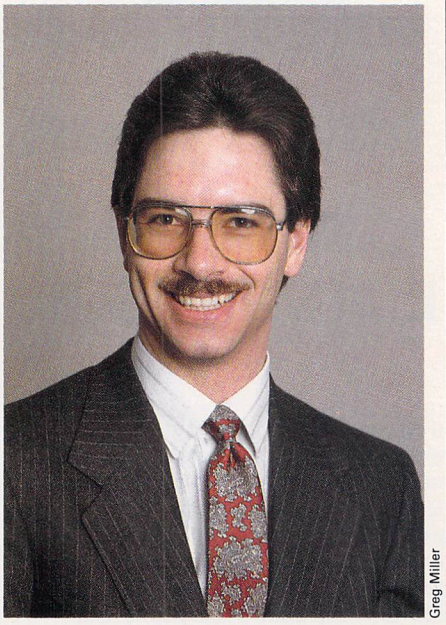
A: The wires available for scanning are The Associated Press US and World, The Associated Press Sports and *The Washington Post*. Financial news consists of The Associated Press Financial, the Reuters Financial Report, McGraw-Hill News and OTC NewsAlert.

Q: How do I set up keywords to maximize my folders' effectiveness?

A: The most important element in selecting keyphrases is to assure that they are neither too broad nor too narrow. For example, the keyphrase APPLE COMPUTER is too narrow as the service will clip only stories with the words APPLE and COMPUTER next to each other. The keywords APPLE and COMPUTER are too broad because the service will clip all articles with the words APPLE or COMPUTER in them. APPLE + COMPUTER will select stories that have both the words APPLE and COMPUTER in them, but not necessarily next to each other. You also can use a "wildcard" designator. For example, COMPUT* will clip all stories containing the words COMPUTE, COMPUTER and COMPUTING.

Q: After I set up my folder, when does it start clipping stories for me?

A: The service starts scanning the news wires you select as soon as the folder is set up, however historical news cannot be accessed. You also can read current news from the last 24 hours while online in the Executive News Service. There is a $15-an-hour surcharge in effect while online in the Executive News Service. You are not charged while you are offline and the service is clipping stories for you.



Greg Miller

Enjoys forum exchanges: *Shearer*

Rep of the Month

Mike Shearer, an Ohio State University graduate, works as a Customer Service representative 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Mike enjoys providing information—from giving a new access phone number to walking someone through a forum download—to resolve problems.

Mike's main online interests are CompuServe's 142 forums. "The forums allow people who share similar interests to exchange information, find and provide technical help, share stories and make friends," Mike says. "I find a new forum that is fun and helpful almost weekly."

Mike suggests that CompuServe members read the Instructions/Fees option for each database they access. "If you do not see this option on the menu, press the Return key to get to the information."

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Computer: Toshiba Model T3200; AT-compatible laptop portable.
Operating System: Toshiba MS-DOS version 3.3.
Features: 1MB RAM; one 3.5-inch 720K diskette drive; one 40MB hard disk drive; full-size keyboard; gas plasma display screen; monochrome, EGA or VGA-compatible graphics; two expansion slots; 6 or 12MHz keyboard-selectable processor speeds; connectors for external keyboard and monitor; serial communications and parallel printer ports; comes bundled with Toshiba MS-DOS 3.3 and Lotus Metro memory-resident desktop manager.
Options: 3MB RAM upgrade; external 5.25-inch disk drive ($499); carrying case; internal modem ($399); TTL, CGA, EGA or multiscanning monitor; any standard, low-profile, IBM PC-XT or 286-compatible option card.
Model Tested: Basic Model T3200 with 1MB RAM, 40MB hard disk and one 3.5-inch diskette drive.
Base Price: $5,799 for basic model.

Reviewed by William J. Lynott

A few years ago, the words "portable computer" were regarded by many as a contradiction in terms. But today, many "laptops" can stand muster with the best of their desktop cousins. With hard disks ranging all the way up to 100MB, RAM expandable to 4MB and more and the latest and fastest microprocessors, they are capable of the most sophisticated computing assignments.

At the top of the list in features and power are the Toshiba laptops. From the small battery/AC-operated T1000 to the awesome and high-priced T5100, the Toshiba line reflects the broad range of capabilities now available in portable computer technology.

The T3200, at the upper range of the scale in both features and price, comes in a sleek clamshell case with a retractable carrying handle at one end. Despite its streamlined appearance, though, it tips the scales at a hefty 19 pounds. That is much too heavy to fit most people's idea of a true laptop computer. I perched it on my knees while I tested it for an hour or so and came to the conclusion that most laps would soon wilt under that heft.

So, if you're looking for a computer to stuff in your briefcase and cradle in your lap for long stints at the keyboard, this is not the one for you. But if you want state-of-the-art technology in a self-contained machine that is truly portable, you are not likely to be disappointed by the T3200.

One of the first things I learned when I began shopping around for a laptop/portable was that compromise is still the keynote, despite the new technology. To be sure, the compromises are more appealing than they were a few years ago, but compromise you must if you want a laptop. For example, if battery operation is high on your priority list, expect to compromise on the display. While backlighting and supertwist technology have greatly improved the LCD displays used on most battery-operated portables, some are still unsatisfactory in poor lighting conditions.

The gas plasma display of the T3200 is a joy. Its brilliant orange characters on a black background are crystal-clear in virtually any light. But power requirements of gas plasma displays, at this stage in their development, are too much for most rechargeable batteries. So, if you want to use the T3200, you'll have to give up the idea of battery operation.

As far as I'm concerned, the compromises in the T3200 end with its 19-pound weight and AC-only operation. The advertising literature describes the T3200 as a portable substitute for a desktop computer. In that, it takes no prisoners.

The T3200 sets up instantly on the smallest corner of your desk or in just about any nook or cranny where you want to set up shop. Once it is in operation, you just can't tell it from a desktop AT.

With its 38-millisecond access time, the standard 40MB hard disk is fast enough to serve as a fine complement to the 80286 microprocessor that is the heart of the system board. The 80286 operates at a speedy 12 MHz. If you have any older software that balks at the higher speed, you can slow down to 6 MHz with a couple of keystrokes. So far, I've had no problem with the 12 MHz speed, and I've tested it with WordPerfect, Lotus 1-2-3, dBase III, PageMaker and Publisher's Paintbrush.

My suspicion that the T3200 is noticeably faster than some other 286-based machines was confirmed with a few informal tests. Loading times for large spreadsheet and graphics files average 16 to 22 percent faster than two other 286-based desktop machines I use. Pagemaker 3.0, which is sluggish on some machines, loads and runs about 15 percent faster on the T3200 than on either of those other computers.

Once I got used to typing on a keyboard that has the function keys along the top row instead of along the left edge, my friendship with the T3200 was firmly established.

It wasn't long before I took advantage of the built-in expansion slots. I installed a mouse controller board in the 8-bit slot, leaving a full 16-bit slot for later use.

The T3200's 80-character by 25-line monochrome display is as good as you'll see on any of today's laptop/portables. Still, you may need a color display at some point. Not to worry. Just plug any EGA/VGA-compatible or multifrequency monitor into the rear monitor socket and you're in business. A bank of tiny switches on the rear panel lets you tell the T3200 what kind of monitor you are using. There also is a side-mounted socket to plug in a conventional keyboard. With an external monitor and keyboard, the T3200 becomes a powerful and full-featured desktop system.

Meanwhile, Lotus Metro, which comes bundled with the T3200, is a memory-resident desktop manager that includes a calculator, appointment manager, list manager and DOS file manager. It functions smoothly, but is designed to work best with Lotus products.

The evolution of portable computers is far from over, of course. It is likely that machines such as the T3200 will be regarded as heavy, clumsy and relatively bland a few years down the road. Until then, though, this machine will fit the bill just fine.

William J. Lynott is president of W.J. Lynott Associates, a management consulting firm in suburban Philadelphia. His CompuServe User ID number is 70007,420.

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The following hardware review is available this month in *Online Today Daily Edition* (GO OLT-220).

ScanMan Handheld Image Scanner
Manufacturer: *Logitech Inc.*
Computers: *IBM compatibles.*

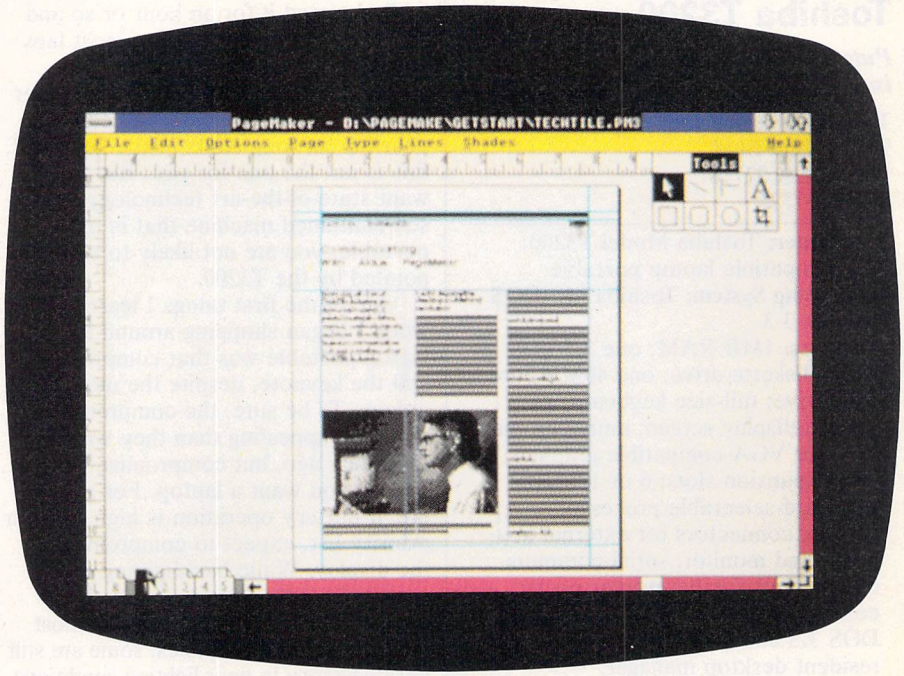
PageMaker 3.0

Improves Desktop Publishing

Aldus Corp.
411 First Ave. South, #200
Seattle, WA 98104
206/628-2375

Computers: Any Windows-compatible computer; 80286/80386-based computer recommended (IBM PC-AT; PS/2 models 30, 50, 60 and 80; or 100 percent compatibles).
Operating Systems: PC-DOS or MS-DOS version 3.1 or higher.
Media: Supplied on 5.25-inch diskettes (either 360K or 1.2MB) or 3.5-inch (720K) diskettes; requires one floppy drive and a 20MB or larger hard disk with 4.5MB of free space.
Copy Protection: None.
Required Peripherals: Microsoft Windows-compatible pointing device such as Microsoft Mouse; Microsoft Windows-compatible graphics adapter and monitor; Windows-compatible printer.
Other Requirements: Minimum 640K RAM; Microsoft Windows 2.0 (runtime Windows 2.0 supplied with PageMaker).
Optional Items: Extended or expanded memory beyond 640K will increase PageMaker's speed of operation.
Systems used for test: (1) IBM PC-XT with Quad 386XT Accelerator board having 1MB RAM, Hercules Graphics Card Plus, one 360K and one 1.2MB disk drives and Control Data 30MB hard disk. (2) Toshiba 3200 laptop with 40MB hard disk, one 3.5-inch 720K diskette drive, LaserJet Series II printer and Okidata 293 printer.
List Price: $795 (upgrade from version 1.0 costs $95).

Reviewed by William J. Lynott



PageMaker 3.0 finally puts IBM and compatibles on a par with Macintosh computers for classy desktop publishing. Aldus has gone directly from version 1.0 for the IBM PC to version 3.0, and the move makes the Macintosh and IBM PC versions 3.0 nearly identical. In fact, text and graphics now can be transferred between the IBM PC and Macintosh PageMaker versions through third-party utilities such as DataViz' MacLink or Tangent Technologies' PC MacBridge.

PageMaker 3.0 for the IBM PC brings with it the major features that will let it hang onto its position at the top of the heap in desktop publishing. Perhaps the most important of these are new automatic text wrapping and style sheet features.

With PageMaker 1.0, imported text more than a page in length had to be "flowed" onto successive pages, one page at a time. This involved clicking on the icon at the end of the text, switching to the next page and "placing" text. The cumbersome procedure had to be repeated for as many pages as the document required, and the whole process gave PageMaker the reputation of not being suited to long documents.

Now, with automatic text wrapping, you place imported text only once. Text flows automatically to each successive page. PageMaker even inserts additional pages into a document automatically if they are required to hold the full text. This feature makes PageMaker as efficient as any page layout program for handling long documents. On my own long documents, it has worked without a hitch, even to automatically inserting a half-dozen additional pages.

PageMaker 3.0 also lets you set up and save style sheets as separate template files. Now you need to create formatting instructions such as type styles and sizes, master items to appear on each page and margins for repetitive publications only once. Each style can be attached to a specific publication or saved as a separate template to be imported later into other publications. And style sheets can be used to reformat an entire publication in a single easy operation.

Version 3.0 also provides much greater flexibility in flowing text around graphics. Now you can place a graphic first and let the text flow around it, or you can place the text first and add graphics later.

Each time you place a graphic in version 3.0, it is surrounded by an "invisible" frame that defines the shape and area around which text will flow. Text can be made to flow around, jump over or flow through a graphic depending on how you define it. The frame consists of a series of moveable points that can be manipulated in various ways to achieve the text-wrap design you desire. I find this a major enhancement because the flow of text around a graphic strongly influences the final appearance of a page layout.

PageMaker now lets you control how light or dark a scanned or bit-mapped graphic will print, and how much contrast there will be between light and dark areas. You also can decide whether the printed graphic will be composed of dots or lines.

Text handling has been improved in several ways: The program now lets you add text from a word processing application directly into the middle of an existing text block. A new Replace feature enables you to replace any graphic or block of text in one operation. The replacement item simply

takes the place of the old one, which is automatically deleted.

If you work in color, you will be especially pleased with enhancements that greatly facilitate the use of multiple colors. Using any of three standard color models (RGB, CMYK or HLS), PageMaker 3.0 lets you create an unlimited color palette. Any color then can be applied to any text or graphic in the publication. Improved procedures allow for applying colors in "layers" and printing with accurate registration marks to guide a commercial printer. A section in the user manual, "Using Spot Color in Your Publication," is particularly helpful in learning to make full use of this enhancement.

When I first loaded PageMaker 3.0, it seemed to run much slower than PageMaker 1.0. To make sure it wasn't my hardware setup, I tried it on another computer with the same results. Apparently the speed difference can be traced to Windows 2.0, which is required to run PageMaker and is supplied with the program in a runtime version. I have heard reports that Windows 2.0 with all its enhancements has slowed down some applications, so I assume it is at least one reason for the slowdown. The speed difference is significant, but not enough to create serious problems.

Another enhancement important to the serious desktop publisher is the addition of new import and export filters that let you work with a much broader range of file formats. Among the newest filters are dBase, PC Write, Office Writer 5.0/6.0 and Wang IWP, bringing the total to more than 30. Some popular filters, such as ASCII, WordPerfect and Microsoft Word, are built in. Others must be installed through a simple program. PageMaker now recognizes the use of 10 installable import filters and 20 installable export filters at any given time. However, some filters take up huge amounts of hard-disk space, so install only those you expect to use.

The nature of page layout programs is such that compatibility with a variety of other software packages, particularly word processors and graphics programs, is important. Aldus appears to have done a good job maintaining compatibility with existing software. There are a few hitches here and there, though, with new software. For example, PageMaker 3.0 will not accept files in WordPerfect 5.0 format. Fortunately, WordPerfect 5.0 lets you save files in WordPerfect 4.2 format, which is compatible.

PageMaker 3.0 clearly represents the state-of-the-art in desktop publishing software. Unlike some upward software revisions I've seen, PageMaker 3.0 clearly is worth the upgrade price for present PageMaker users. And, if you haven't yet bought your first page layout program, you won't go wrong with PageMaker 3.0.

William J. Lynott is president of W.J. Lynott Associates, a management consulting firm in suburban Philadelphia. His CompuServe User ID number is 70007,420.

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The following software reviews are available this month in *Online Today Daily Edition* by typing GO OLT-230 at any CompuServe Information Service prompt. Many daily-edition and print-edition software reviews are supplemented with GIF graphics that may be viewed in or downloaded from Library 6 of the *Online Today* Readers' Forum (GO OLTFORUM).

WordPerfect 5.0
Word Processor and Publisher
Manufacturer: *WordPerfect Corp.*
Computers: *IBM compatibles.*

Total Word
High-Power Word Processor
Manufacturer: *Lifetree Software Inc.*
Computers: *IBM compatibles.*

MapInfo Mapping and Data Analyzer
Manufacturer: *Mapping Information Systems Corp.*
Computers: *IBM compatibles.*

R:Base For DOS Database Manager
Manufacturer: *Microrim Inc.*
Computers: *IBM compatibles.*

Lotus Agenda Information Manager
Manufacturer: *Lotus Development.*
Computers: *IBM compatibles.*

REMS Property Manager 500
Manufacturer: *Good Software Corp.*
Computers: *IBM compatibles.*

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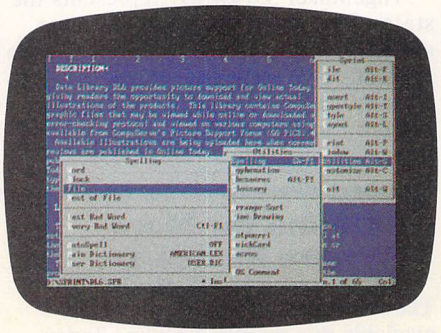
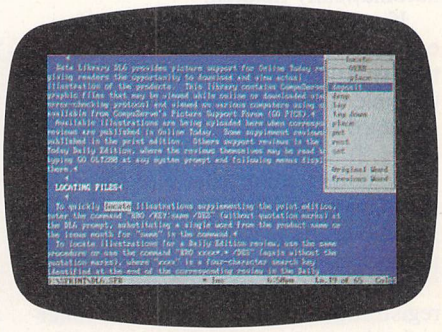
Borland International
4585 Scotts Valley Dr.
Scotts Valley, CA 95066
408/438-8400

Computers: IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT, PS/2 and compatibles.
Operating System: PC-DOS or MS-DOS version 2.0 and higher.
Media: Supplied on 5.25-inch diskettes; available on 3.5-inch diskettes; requires two diskette drives or one diskette drive and a hard disk.
Copy Protection: None.
Required Peripherals: None.
Other Requirements: Minimum 256K RAM; 384K RAM recommended.
Optional Items: Two- or three-button mouse.
System used for test: 640K Compaq Deskpro 286 with one 1.2MB diskette drive, one 360K diskette drive, one 40MB hard disk, Vega VGA adapter, NEC MultiSync II monitor, Microsoft Bus Mouse and Hewlett-Packard LaserJet Plus printer; running MS-DOS 3.3.
List Price: $199.95

Reviewed by Harry Green





The world of personal computer users is made up of people who would rather fight than switch word processors. After you've invested the time and energy to learn the keystrokes, you need strong motivation to learn a new program, but Sprint (version 1.0) may be worth the effort.

Borland's new word processor might have been named the Chameleon because you can make it behave enough like other popular word processors such as WordPerfect, WordStar and Microsoft Word, that a user who knows one of those can choose the appropriate user interface and move quickly up the learning curve. There is a lot more to Sprint than its ability to imitate word processors, though. It has excellent features in its own right, and the standard Borland user interface is at least as good as most of its competitors.

Sprint's menu is invisible until you call it. The F10 key overlays a window on the screen, from which you can dive into submenus or execute commands directly with key combinations that may already be familiar. Users who know Wordstar, Sidekick and Turbo Pascal will already know many of the keys, but if you don't like them, you can reassign them. A menu option called "Quick Card" lists all key combinations.

Any office that uses occasional help will find Sprint valuable if only to let a temporary employee use a familiar word processor. I've used Microsoft Word for so long that changing to another program normally would be difficult, but switching to Sprint was a snap.

Sprint also can translate files between most popular word processors, but the file to be converted must be in the same directory as Sprint or you get confusing results. I got good results converting from Sprint to Word, but going the other way I lost most of the formatting. The problem may lie in Sprint's failure to recognize styles in Word's style sheets.

One minor disappointment is Sprint's mouse support. Although my preference for a mouse in word processing isn't universally shared, it is a feature I can't do without. Sprint supports a mouse but lacks precision in selecting text and moving it or deleting it with a minimum of keystrokes. It isn't possible to select a word, sentence or paragraph with a single click of the mouse button. Instead you must drag the mouse cursor to highlight the selected text.

Sprint has most features expected of powerful word processors. It has a keystroke glossary, macro capability, line drawing, style sheets and a thesaurus. You can split the screen to have up to six windows and you can sort files. One of my favorite features is a fast way of getting a word count.

Sprint also has several features missing from competitive word processors, and they could become addictive. It includes online spell-checking *à la* Turbo Lightning. I don't like the interruption of the beep on misspelled words, but it is easy to turn that off, and the dictionary is amazingly complete. Sprint imports ASCII files and removes the hard carriage returns. Another valuable feature is Sprint's autosave. Whenever you pause for three seconds, the program automatically saves to a protection file, which you'll welcome if the power blips. When you restart the computer, Sprint gives you the option of saving or abandoning the unsaved file.

Although Sprint displays many attributes of the final document on the screen, it is not a true what-you-see-is-what-you-get word processor. Multiple columns and double spacing are not displayed. Neither is the number of spaces between paragraphs. Character formats such as underlining, boldfacing and the like are displayed in a different color or intensity, with control codes hidden until you expose them with a function key. You can preview files on the screen before printing. If a line is too wide for the screen, Sprint takes a section out of the middle so you see the margins.

One of the best Sprint features is the support you get from Borland through CompuServe. The Borland Applications Forum (GO BORAPP) gives you direct access to its staff, and you usually can get a question answered in less than a day. Judging from the number of messages about Sprint, the program has gained a following, and for the price and features, it is little wonder. As with any new program, users are experiencing a few problems with such things as printer interfaces, file translations and an annoying tendency for the spell-checking window to occasionally overlay the faulty word, but most users are finding that the program is an outstanding value.

Harry Green is a free-lance writer from Portland, Ore. He writes about telecommunications, office automation and personal computer-related topics. His CompuServe User ID number is 70007,431.

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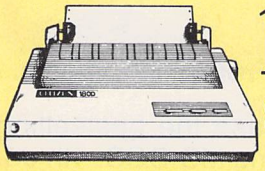

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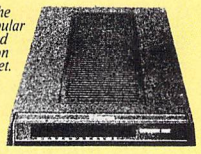

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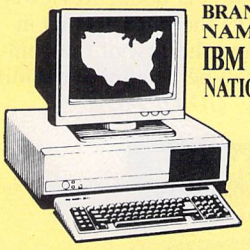

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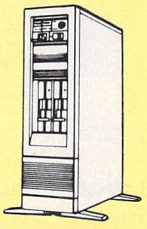

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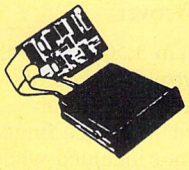

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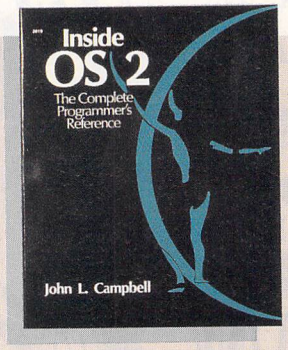
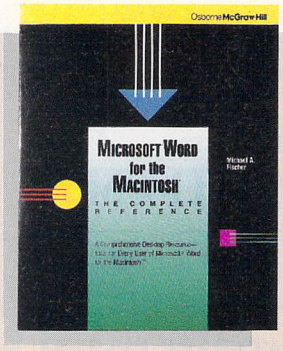


Inside OS/2

By Gordon Letwin
Microsoft Press, 1988
289 pages, $19.95 (softcover)

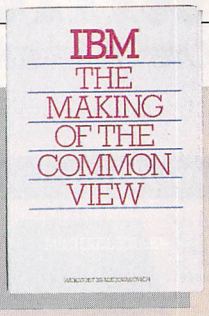
Written by Microsoft's chief architect for systems software, this book emphasizes the technical software aspects of the OS/2 operating system. Reviewer James Moran deems it an excellent and readable book for those wanting to know how the components of OS/2 work. *GO OLT-5500*



Microsoft Word for the Macintosh: The Complete Reference

By Michael A. Fischer
Osborne/McGraw-Hill, 1988
969 pages, $26.95 (softcover)

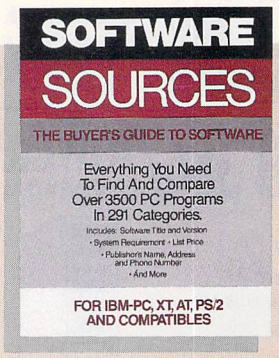
Fatter than most city telephone directories, this book is brimming with information not only about Microsoft Word but also about the Macintosh itself. For those who want to know more about their Macs, reviewer Lindsy Van Gelder calls this book a winner. *GO OLT-5510*



IBM: The Making of the Common View

By Michael Killen
Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1988
284 pages, $17.95 (softcover)

A chance, unguarded remark by an IBM employee to Michael Killen about some bumbling going on at Big Blue led Killen to write this book. Reviewer James Moran says the book lets us in on where IBM and the rest of the computer industry will be heading well into the next century. *GO OLT-5520*



Software Sources: The Buyer's Guide to Software for IBM PC, XT, AT, PS/2 and Compatibles

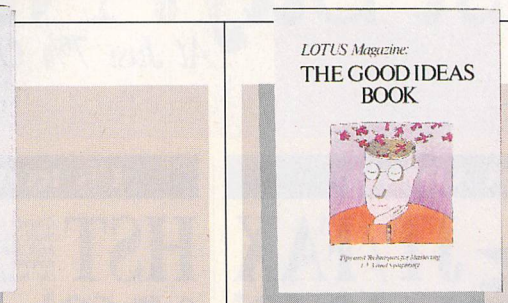
Software Sources, 1988
414 pages, $24.95 (softcover)

This list of more than 3,500 IBM PC programs in 291 categories is difficult at best to use because it lacks an index. Reviewer Richard A. Danca finds major companies are not included while small software firms receive top billing. *GO OLT-5550*

Running Microsoft Excel

By Douglas Cobb and Judy Mynhier
Microsoft Press, 1988
717 pages, $24.95 (softcover)

Although the book is long, involved and a bit tedious, reviewer Cheryl Peterson recommends it to those who are befuddled by the Excel manual. *GO OLT-5530*



Lotus Magazine: The Good Ideas Book

By The Staff and Readers of *Lotus Magazine*
Edited by Steven E. Miller
Addison-Wesley Publishing Co., 1988
315 pages, $19.95 (softcover)

A compilation of great ideas derived from the questions and answers appearing monthly in *Lotus Magazine*, this book is the answer for 1-2-3 and Symphony users trying to solve a variety of problems, says reviewer Robert Sanchez. *GO OLT-5540*

DOS From The Experts.

Purchase the bestselling Running MS-DOS, 4th ed. ($22.95) and Supercharging MS-DOS, 2nd ed. ($19.95) and get The Quick Reference Guide to MS-DOS Commands ***FREE!*** ($5.95 value). From Microsoft Press. *GO WB.*

Walden*COMPUTER*Books

GO OLI for more information.

James Meyer

MIS Director for a national motel chain.

Challenge:

Connect home office and individual motels for a cost-effective, nationwide reservation system.

Solution:

CompuServe Value-Added Data Network Services.

Discover CompuServe Business Services.

In this instance, James Meyer's company, a leading motel chain, needed a nationwide reservation system without incurring traditional, long distance, telecommunication charges.

Meyer chose the CompuServe Value-Added Data Network.

He based his choice on CompuServe's technical knowledge, flexibility and the account team's understanding of his business.

Since 1969, CompuServe has helped *Fortune 500* companies, Wall Street investment banking firms and government agencies communicate more effectively by implementing CompuServe Business Services applications.

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Your business has needs of its own. Since all situations are different, CompuServe works with you, in a consultative manner, to find a customized solution for your business. From value-added data networks and electronic mail to information delivery and custom applications.

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Learn more about how your business can benefit from CompuServe Business Services. Simply enter GO BSD on the CompuServe Information Service to find additional information, application case studies and a listing of all CompuServe branch offices.

Or call 1-800-848-8980 for the phone number of the branch nearest you.

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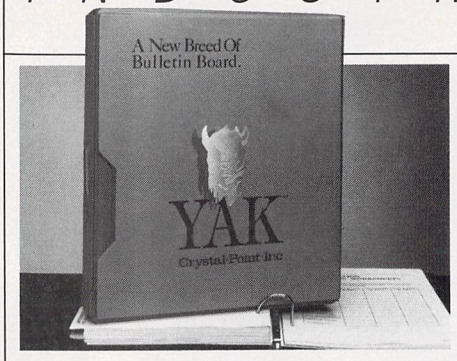
An H&R Block Company

James Meyer is a fictional character.
However, this scenario is based on an actual client application.



Yak Multiuser LAN Bulletin Board

Yak from Crystal Point is a multiuser LAN bulletin board for network users.

The Yak software program enables up to 16 users to be logged on simultaneously via network or modem connections, eliminating the message bottlenecks common to single-user bulletin boards. Public and private messages can be read and entered.

For information, contact Crystal Point Inc., 12707 120th Ave. N.E., Suite 202, Kirkland, WA 98034; 206/821-1909.

Z-180 High-speed Laptop Modems

Computer Peripherals has extended its Hook-Up family of low-cost telecommunications packages with the introduction of two high-speed modems designed for use in the Zenith Z-180 laptop portable computer.

Hook-Up Z-12 and Hook-Up Z-24 internal modems offer 1200- and 2400-baud communications speeds, respectively, and Hayes command set compatibility. Proprietary telecommunications software comes bundled.

The retail prices are $299 for the Z-12 and $499 for the Z-24.

For information, contact Computer Peripherals Inc., 667 Rancho Conejo Blvd., Newbury Park, CA 91320; 800/854-7600 or 805/499-5751.

Arnet Intelligent Multiuser Boards

Arnet has introduced two intelligent multiuser boards. The Smartport/2 is a serial controller board for the IBM Personal System/2 models 50, 60, 70 and 80, and the IBM PC-AT-compatible Modular Smartport is a serial communications controller board with on-board telephone-style connectors.

Both boards support data transmission rates up to 38,400 baud on each port and are capable of throughputs of up to 80,000 baud. Smartport/2 costs $1,595 (8 ports) or $2,195 (16 ports), while Modular Smartport costs $1,295.

For information, contact Arnet Corp., 618 Grassmere Park Dr., #6, Nashville, TN 37211; 800/366-8844 or 615/834-5222.

FLASHlink

Cardinal Industries has introduced FLASHlink, a communications program for IBM PC-compatible computers that can double the speed of conventional modems by adding Microcom Network Protocol features. FLASHlink contains MNP levels 4 and 5, which include error-detection and correction features as well as data compression. The retail price is $99. It is also available with a Hayes-compatible internal modem for $199.

For information, contact Cardinal Technologies Inc., 1827 Freedom Rd., Lancaster, PA 17601; 717/293-3000.

UltraLite Laptop

NEC Home Electronics has introduced the UltraLite 4-pound laptop that packs 90 percent of the power of the original IBM PC-AT into a package small enough to fit into the slimmest briefcase.

Driven by a NEC V-30 processor running at 9.83 MHz, the UltraLite features a main memory of 640K RAM, a full-size, industry standard keyboard, built-in DOS Manager and Lap-Link software, and an internal 2400-baud modem. The back-lit screen supports both text and graphics. The retail price is $2,999.

For information, contact NEC Home Electronics Inc., 1255 Michael Dr., Wood Dale, IL 60191; 312/860-9500.

Electronic-mail Receiver Printer

Advanced Communications has introduced the MP-8010 Electronic Mail Receiver Printer.

Features include automatic selection of error-correction protocols, audible alarm for out-of-paper condition, up to 132 column printing, selectable ring count, large buffer memory and a print mechanism of proven reliability. It is compatible with most electronic mail systems and personal communications software.

For information, contact Advanced Communications Inc., 1039 Kiel Ct., Sunnyvale, CA 94089; 408/734-9636.

MasterModem

Data race has introduced a new family of modems capable of so many communications functions that each can replace several data communications devices.

The MasterModem PC internal modem card on a common dial-up line can support Group III facsimile exchanges; IBM terminal emulation for mainframe sessions; error-free, online interaction at 9600 baud with popular minicomputers; batch file transfers at up to 19,200 baud and connection at 300/1200/2400 baud with MNP error correction and data compression to other modem and public information services, such as CompuServe.

The retail price is $995.

For information, contact Data Race, Corporate Headquarters, 12758 Cimarron Path, Suite 108, San Antonio, TX 78249; 512/692-3909.

Go Online for More Product Announcements

The following new product announcements are available this month in *Online Today Daily Edition* by typing GO OLT-250 at any CompuServe Information Service prompt.

RR Relational Report Writer (version 3B), *dBase report writer that now supports dBase IV, Concentric Data Systems Inc.*

Dr. Halo IV, *paint package for the VGA/Extended VGA environment, Media Cybernetics.*

The Hyperworks Organizer, *system of interconnected HyperCard stacks for time and task management and control, Timeworks Inc.*

Dreams, *mid-range computer-aided design program for the Apple Macintosh, Innovative Data Design.*

TrendSetter Expert, *business forecasting software for the IBM PC and compatible computers, Concentric Data Systems Inc.*

MathEdit (version 1.1), *graphics version of mathematical editing software for the IBM PC and compatible computers, K-Talk Communications.*

Turn Your PC/XT/AT Into Multi-User, On-Line System

INFOHOST®
Multi-user On-line System Software
(Reviewed by PC Week on 5/19/87)
You can now place a database of goods and services on-line using your own PC, so your customers can dial in over phone lines to access information, leave messages, and make purchases via modem. InfoHost, which can support as many as eight simultaneous modem interfaces, features a customizable relational database that can be adapted to the needs of your business.
A-Comm Electronics, Inc.
377 Route 17 South, Hasbrouck Hts., NJ 07604
201/288-7885; TLX: 4948376

Call Our Demo System
201/288-7792
(With Modem Settings 8/1/N)

Make Money With Your PC

A Revolutionary Software System, designed for maximum profits with minimum setup, now transforms any IBM PC/XT/AT or compatible computer into a secure, reliable Bulletin Board and Information Host System.

Subscription Systems throughout the free world are presently being used in dial-a-date and matchmaking applications, for multi-user databases and multiple listing endeavors, on-line order taking, along with scores of other lucrative telecommunications tasks.

To learn more about this unique, self-perpetuating opportunity that can adapt to both voice and data environments, contact: PC/WORKS at (805) 654-0724 or FAX (805) 650-0195.

Be A Lotto Millionaire!
NEW! Lotto Picker™ Plus v2.1 stores winning Lotto & Pick 3/4 numbers & uses probability analysis in order to select what might be your million $$ ticket. Guaranteed to work for all lotteries worldwide. Not copy-protected. For IBM, 64k Apple II, & C64/128 **$34.95** (+5.55 sh). 3.5" add $10. **GE RIDGE**, 170 B'dway, #201OL, NYC 10038. **Orders 1-800-634-5463 ext. 293**. Info 718-317-1961.

FIRST TIME AVAILABLE!!!
FUELON *THE ONLY GUARANTEED*
- **Gasoline Extender**
- **Heating Oil Extender**
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Guidelines to Requesting Information Through OLI

Online Inquiry

Online Inquiry is *Online Today*'s electronic version of the traditional reader inquiry card. To request additional information about products or services described in *Online Today*, simply access CompuServe and type GO OLI at any prompt.

CompuServe Page OLI-1
ONLINE TODAY ADVERTISERS
ONLINE INQUIRY (OLI)
1. OLI Instructions
2. Online Today Display Ads
3. Print Edition Reviews
4. Shopper's Guide Mini-Ads

Display Ads

GO OLI-160. Inquiries to this section will be followed by a brief description of the *Online Today* ad. To request additional printed information, simply enter your name and address at the prompts. OLI will add your User ID number and electronically forward your request to the appropriate advertiser(s). The names, addresses and User ID numbers will also be forwarded via US Mail at the end of each month.

CompuServe Page OLI-160
ONLINE TODAY ADVERTISERS/OLI
1. March 1989 Advertisers
2. Feb. 1989 Advertisers
3. Jan. 1989 Advertisers

Editorial Articles/Reviews

At the end of each electronic version product review, you'll be asked if you wish to request further information through the Online Inquiry system. A "yes" response will let the system prompt you for your name, address and other information so that your request can be forwarded to the appropriate company. If you respond "no," the system will return you to the previous menu.

To request information about products reviewed in the print edition, GO OLI-280 and select the appropriate listing, such as March Hardware Reviews. At the next menu, select the product you're interested in. If you answer "yes" at the question prompt, the OLI system will prompt you for the necessary information.

Requests to these sections will be stored and forwarded by traditional mail once each month.

CompuServe Page OLI-280
REVIEW LISTINGS/PRINT EDITION
1. March Hardware Listings
2. March Software Listings
3. March New Product Listings

Shopper's Guide

GO OLI-70 to get information about *Online Today*'s mini-ad program.

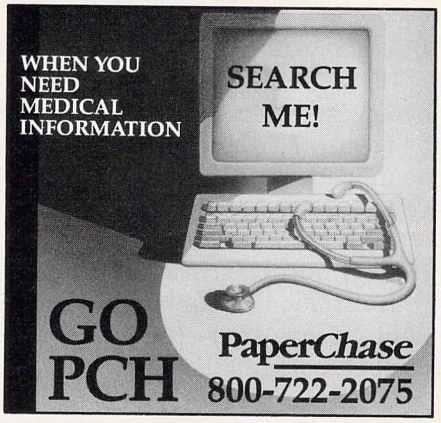
To request information from Shopper's Guide advertisers, follow the instructions outlined in each ad.

CompuServe Page OLI-70
SHOPPER'S GUIDE
1. About Shopper's Guide
2. Rates and Information

***Note:** Additional requests during the same session will not require you to re-enter your name and address.

If you're looking for the lowest air fares for your summer travel, try the

oag®
ELECTRONIC EDITION®
GO OAG



The Original Computer Coffeehouse

COFFEE EMPORIUM has a new NAME we're now

***Coffee Anyone ???*™**

To celebrate, we're having a 10% off sale during March.
GO COF

COFFEE ANYONE ??? GOURMET COFFEE

UPDATE

I/B/E/S Report Enhanced for Casual Investors

The Summary Mean Earnings Per Share Report in I/B/E/S has been improved to provide an easy-to-read synopsis by Wall Street professionals of company estimated earnings. Estimated trends and a comparison to the market have also been added. Each report costs 50 cents. GO IBESB

IQuest Trade & Industry ASAP® Search Fees Waived

The search fees for IQuest's Trade & Industry ASAP are waived during March, resulting in a $13 savings. The database offers complete text for articles from more than 100 international, national and local business publications. Search the database by 10 methods, including topic, company or personal name. More than 554,500 articles can be displayed. Connect-time and telecommunications charges remain in effect. GO IQUEST

WordStar Forum Supported by MicroPro

The MicroPro Forum has been renamed the WordStar Forum and is managed by the MicroPro Technical Consulting Group. The WordStar Forum provides information and addresses questions about MicroPro and its products. GO WORDSTAR

Plan a Vacation in The Electronic Mall®

Endless Vacation Travel (GO EV) offers accommodations at luxury resort condominiums in the United States, the Caribbean and Mexico. If Florida is your destination, explore Bargain Holidays (GO BH). Also visit Traveling With Your Pet (GO TP) for a list of hotels that accommodate pets. Vacation planning is easy this spring in The Electronic Mall. GO MALL

CBers Plan Las Vegas Weekend

A weekend at the Aladdin Hotel in Las Vegas from April 21 to 23 is planned for CBers. An East-versus-West softball game, a presentation by the CB manager (LooLoo), a semi-formal dinner and dance, a murder mystery and more will be highlighted. Read Cupcake's Column (GO CUP) for details, and visit the CB Forum (GO CBFORUM) for murder mystery clues.

Use EasyPlex Instead of Public Access to Transfer Files

Effective Wednesday, March 15, EasyPlex will permit transmission of binary messages up to 256,000 bytes. EasyPlex should be used to transfer files among members in place of Public Access, which will be removed from the CompuServe Information Service on Thursday, March 30. Public Access files may be uploaded until March 15 and downloaded until March 30. Members also are encouraged to explore CompuServe forums for uploads. GO EASY or GO FORUMS

Hollywood Hotline Surcharge-free

Hollywood Hotline entertainment news is available to members without surcharge. Available on CompuServe since 1983, Hollywood Hotline offers daily news covering films, television, music, celebrities and business. GO HHL

Eaasy Sabre Announces Travel Club

Eaasy Sabre offers the Travelers Access travel club on CompuServe. The club offers discounts on cruises, airfare and tours. Members also receive a 5 percent rebate on all trips booked through Travelers Access. GO SABRE

National Ski Reports Online

Get the latest ski reports for favorite ski resorts from the National Weather Service. Instructions (HELP SPORTS) and a list of ski areas that issue reports are available. GO WEA

1989 Specification Averages in New Car Showroom

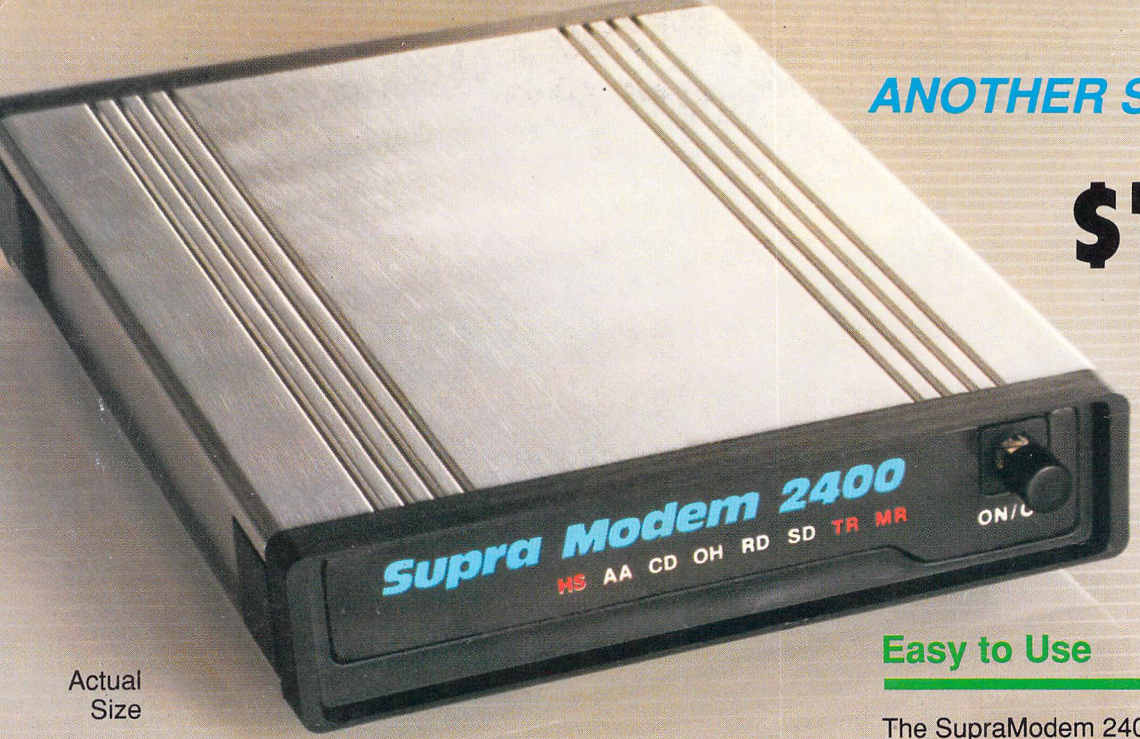
The New Car Showroom has 1989 automobile specification averages that provide a reference to evaluate new cars and their options. The specification averages are calculated by EPA class and include weight, length, width, wheelbase and other dimensions. GO NEWCAR

It's CompuServe Customer Service to the rescue. Just type GO HELP at any ! prompt.

If you need to talk, call 800 848-8990 for friendly, personal assistance.

In Ohio and Canada, call 614 457-8650.

CompuServe®



Actual Size

ANOTHER SUPRA VALUE!

Suggested Retail

$179.95

Compatible

The SupraModem 2400 is 100% compatible with industry-standard, intelligent "**AT**" commands and all commonly used protocols (including Bell 103/212A, CCITT v.22, and CCITT v.22bis). Since the SupraModem operates asynchronously at **300**, **600**, **1200**, and **2400** baud, you can communicate at whatever rate you need to. All these features let you use the SupraModem 2400 to connect with most modems being used today.

Affordable

In addition to its low price, the SupraModem 2400 will save you money by letting you communicate at 2400 baud, thus decreasing your on-line time. The SupraModem 2400 incorporates the advanced Intel 89024MS chip set. This design utilizes fewer parts, assuring operation long after the one-year warranty period.

Easy to Use

The SupraModem 2400 is very easy to use. It features autoanswer and autodial (tone and pulse) for performing phone tasks, and it has a programmable-volume speaker for monitoring call progress. Storing phone numbers and user configurations is also simple because of the modem's programmable nonvolatile memory.

These features and others are explained thoroughly in the comprehensive *SupraModem 2400 Operator's Manual*. Once you understand the basics, the modem's quick-reference card makes finding command descriptions and other modem information quick and simple.

And to make it even easier to begin telecomputing, the SupraModem 2400 comes with introductory packages for several popular on-line services.

Packages available for specific computers!
Packages for Amiga, Apple, Atari, Commodore, and Macintosh computers combine the standard SupraModem 2400 package with communications software and an RS-232 cable for connecting the modem to your computer. $219.95–$239.95 retail.

GO OLI for more information.

Supra Corporation
1133 Commercial Way / Albany, OR 97321 U.S.A.
Phone: (503) 967-9075 / Fax: (503) 926-9370
Telex: 5106005236 (Supra Corp)

Available at Your Local Dealer or Call
(800) 727-8772
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Introducing the Exciting New
SupraModem™ 2400

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